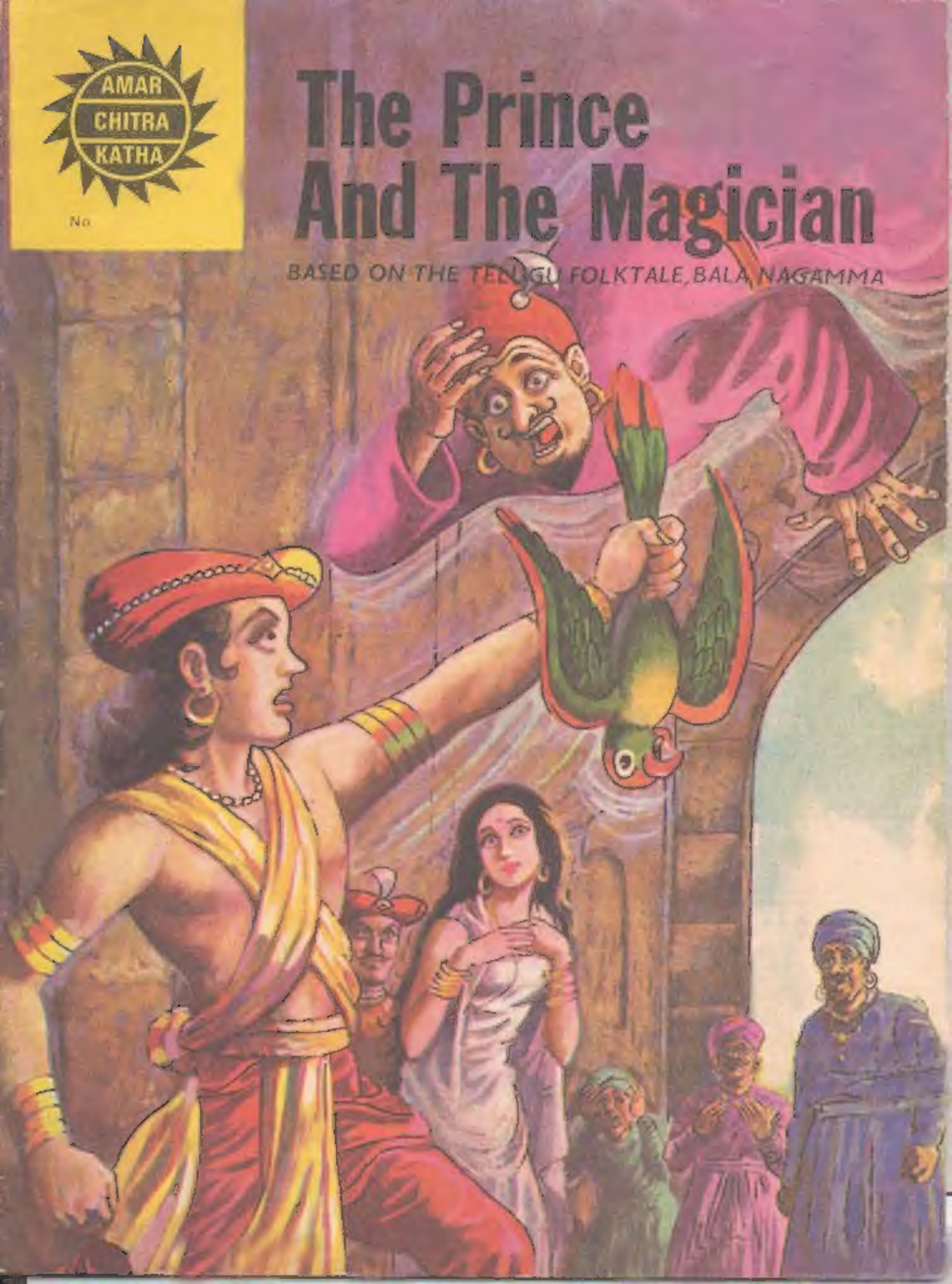
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No

The Prince And The Magician

BASED ON THE TELUGU FOLKTALE, BALA NAGAMMA



There are many who love to tell a story and many more who love to listen to one. And each time a story is retold, it acquires a new colour and a fresh dimension.

The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother, tells the same story to her grandchild but with a few embellishments of her own. The traveller from a distant land who happens to hear a story in the course of his travels, later tells it to his own people, modifying it to make it more dramatic or more acceptable to his audience. That is how stories which had first been told centuries ago have been kept alive and why we find recurring themes in the tales told in different regions separated by hundreds of miles.

This Amar Chitra Katha is an adaptation of *Balanagamma*, one of the most popular folktales of Andhra Pradesh.

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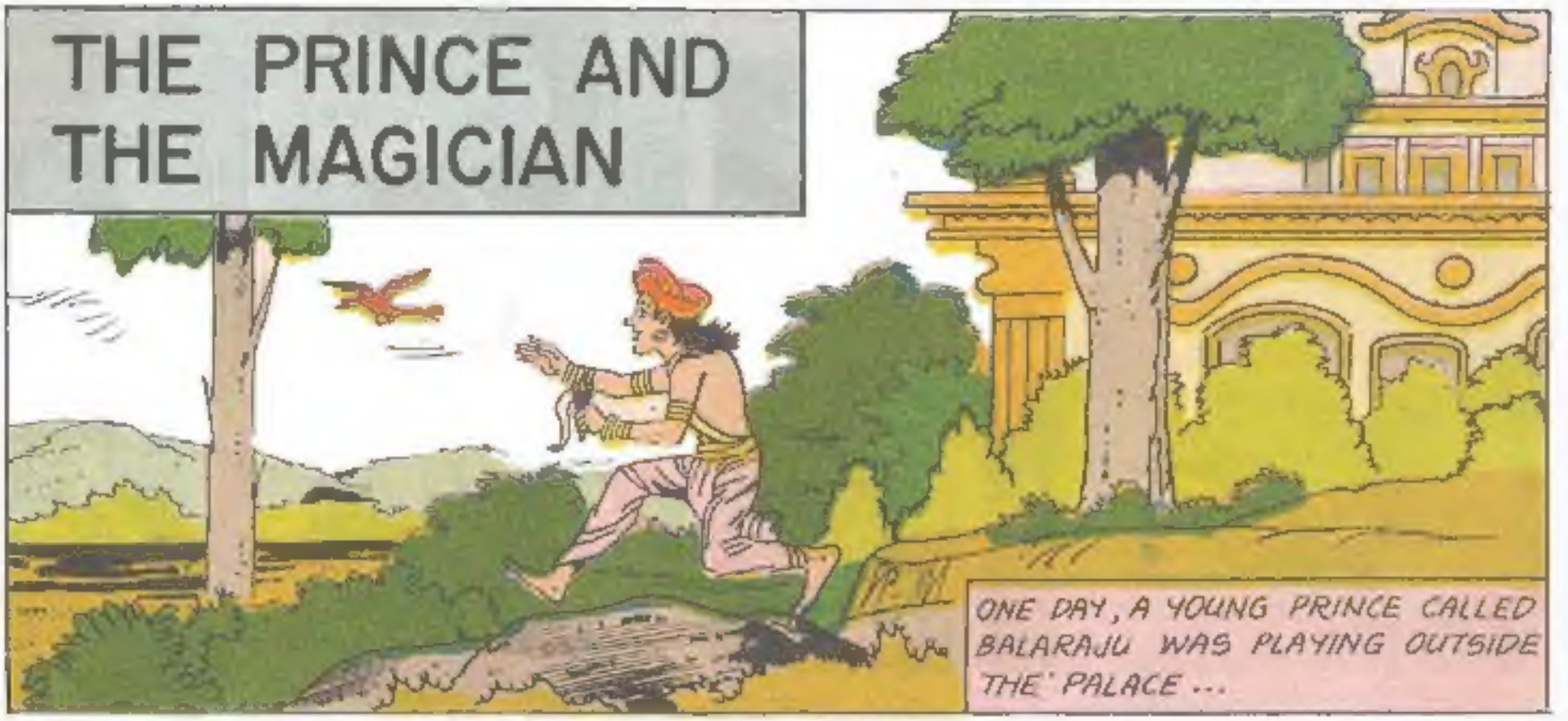
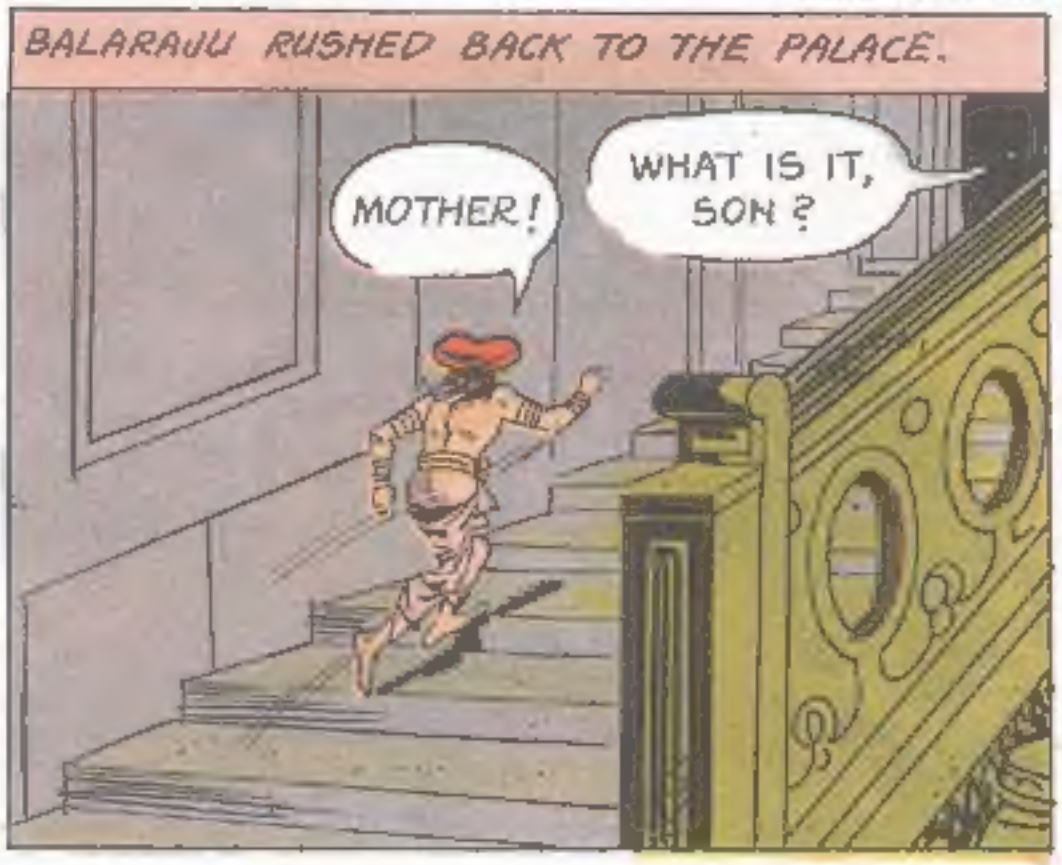
THE PRINCE AND THE MAGICIAN

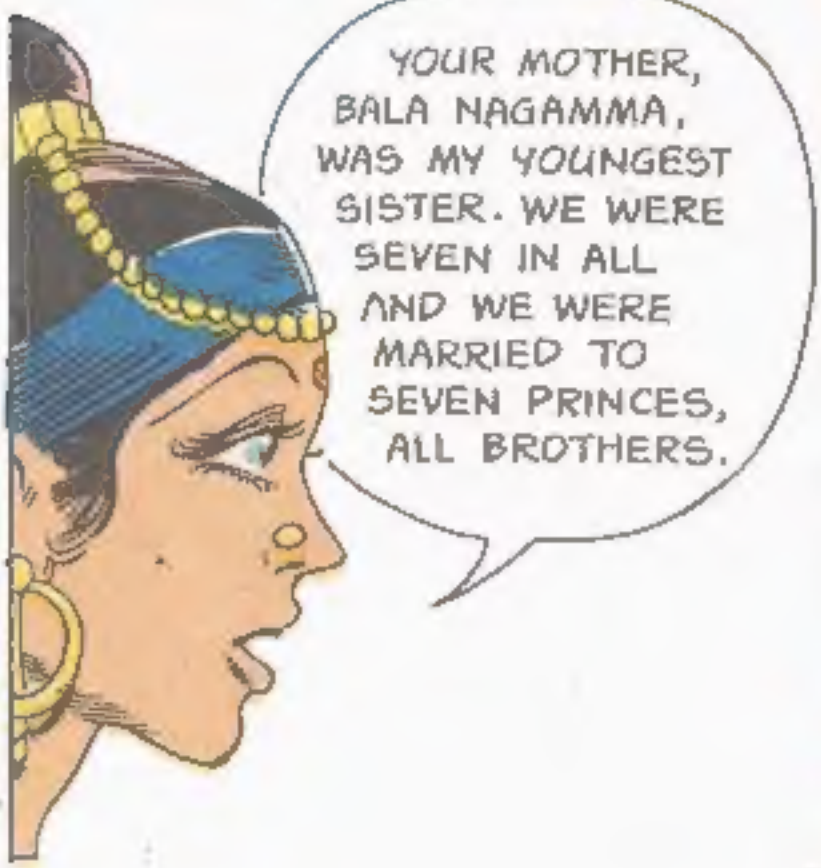



BALARAJU RUSHED BACK TO THE PALACE.
MOTHER!
WHAT IS IT, SON?

WHERE IS MY FATHER?

WHY DO YOU ASK?
I WANT TO KNOW. PLEASE TELL ME WHERE MY FATHER IS.

I SUPPOSE YOU'LL HAVE TO BE TOLD SOONER OR LATER. NOT ONLY ABOUT YOUR FATHER, BUT ALSO YOUR MOTHER.
MY MOTHER?


YOUR MOTHER, BALA NAGAMMA, WAS MY YOUNGEST SISTER. WE WERE SEVEN IN ALL AND WE WERE MARRIED TO SEVEN PRINCES, ALL BROTHERS.

"ONE DAY OUR HUSBANDS LEFT TO PUT DOWN A REBELLION IN A DISTANT PART OF THE COUNTRY."

"YOU WERE BORN SOON AFTER THEY LEFT."
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BABY!
IF ONLY HIS FATHER WERE HERE.
"YOUR ARRIVAL DISPELLED THE GLOOM THAT PERVADED THE PALACE AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE PRINCES."
"BUT SEVEN DAYS LATER A WICKED MAN CAME TO THE PALACE."
"HE WAS A MAGICIAN. WHEN HE SAW YOUR MOTHER—"
YOUR BEAUTY TAKES MY BREATH AWAY.
MARRY ME!
I AM ALREADY MARRIED. PLEASE GO AWAY.
ALL RIGHT. BUT YOU WILL GO WITH ME.
HE...HE HAS TURNED BALA NAGAMMA INTO A DOG BECAUSE SHE REFUSED TO MARRY HIM!

SHE'S FOLLOWING HIM.
STOP THEM!
HOW?

LET'S SEND A MESSAGE TO HER HUSBAND AT ONCE!

"WHEN YOUR FATHER RECEIVED OUR MESSAGE, HE AND HIS BROTHERS RUSHED TO THE CITY OF THE MAGICIAN."

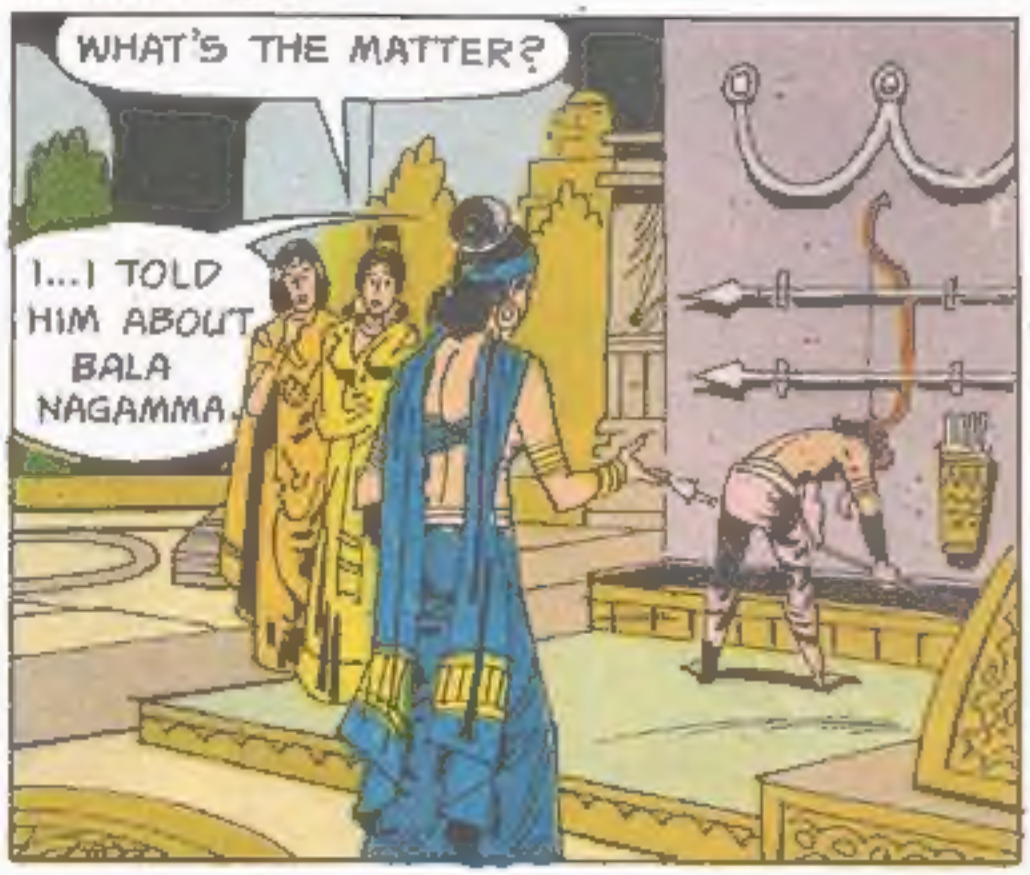
AND...AND THEY NEVER CAME BACK. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE ALL DEAD.

WHAT ABOUT MY MOTHER?
SHE...MUST BE...DEAD TOO.

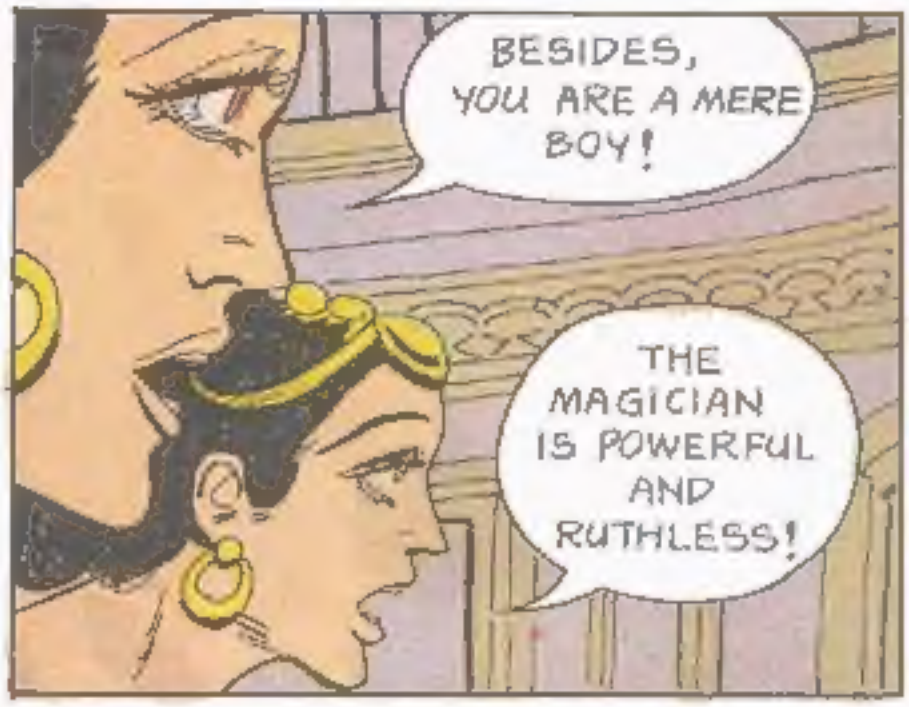
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ALL THIS BEFORE, MOTHER?
I...WE... YOU WERE TOO YOUNG.

I MUST GO AND LOOK FOR MY FATHER AND MY MOTHER.
NO! NO!

WAIT! IT'S NO USE! THEY MUST BOTH BE DEAD!


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I...I TOLD HIM ABOUT BALA NAGAMMA.

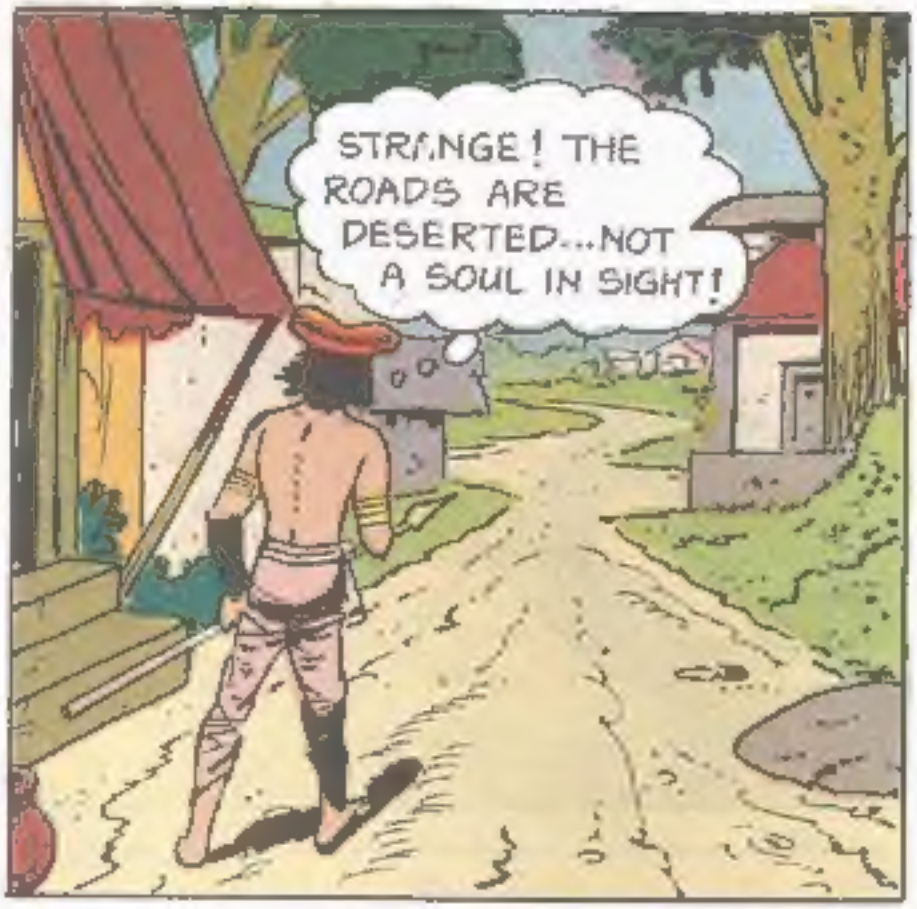
THE SISTERS DID THEIR BEST TO KEEP BALARAJU AT HOME.
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US.
WE HAVE LOST OUR HUSBANDS AND OUR SISTER. YOU ARE ALL WE HAVE.


BESIDES, YOU ARE A MERE BOY!
THE MAGICIAN IS POWERFUL AND RUTHLESS!

DON'T TRY TO STOP ME. LET ME GO, I BEG YOU.
SEEING THAT HE WAS DETERMINED, THE SISTERS FINALLY LET HIM GO.

BALARAJU SET OUT ON HIS QUEST.

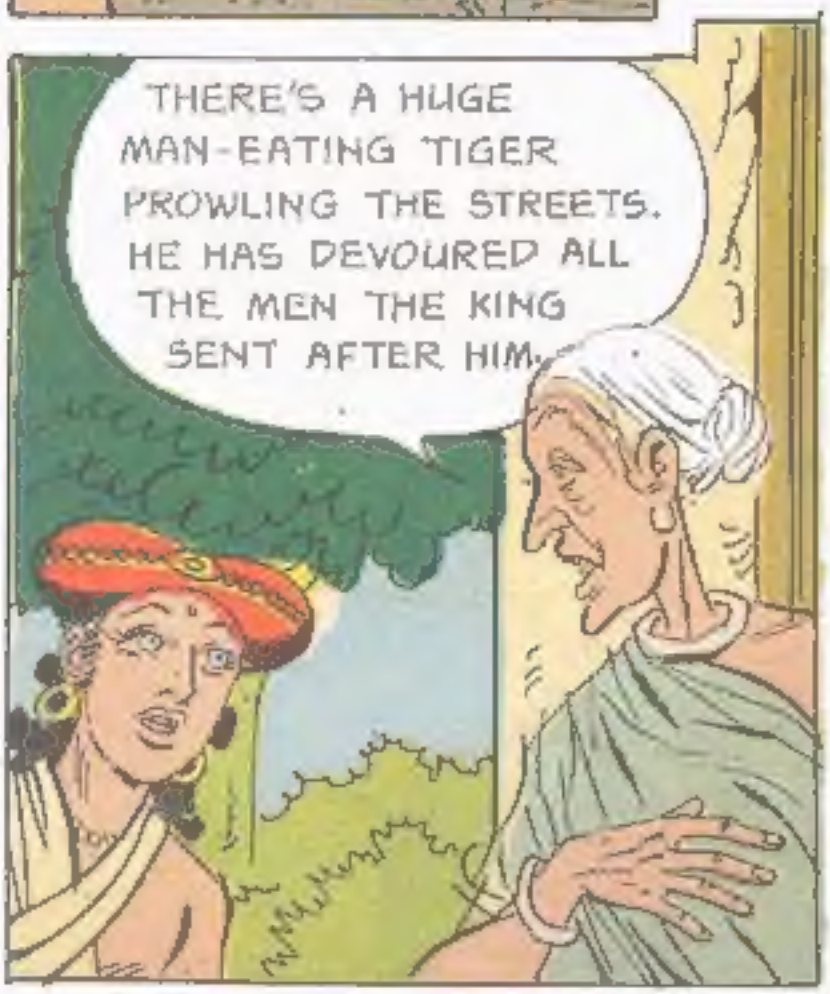
AFTER SEVERAL DAYS —
I WONDER WHAT TOWN THIS IS!


STRANGE! THE ROADS ARE DESERTED...NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT!

AH! THERE'S SOMEONE AT LAST!

GRANDMA, WAIT! WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

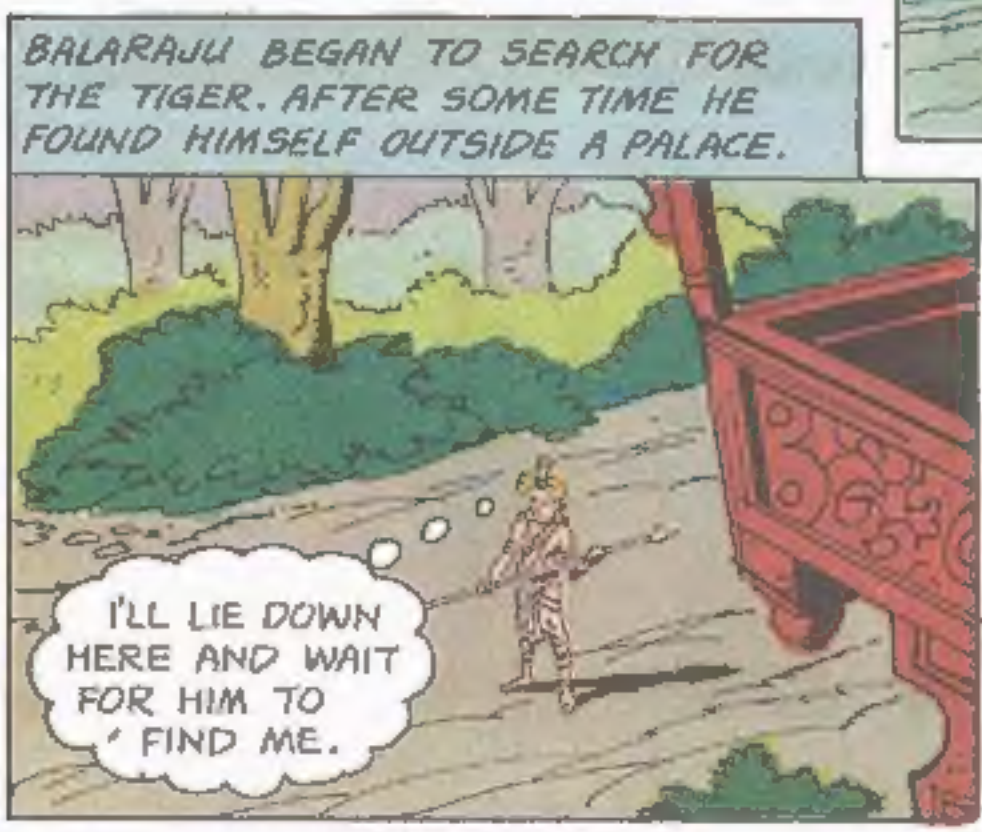
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY ARE THERE NO PEOPLE ABOUT?


THERE'S A HUGE MAN-EATING TIGER PROWLING THE STREETS. HE HAS DEVOURED ALL THE MEN THE KING SENT AFTER HIM.

ROARR
IT'S HIM! COME IN QUICKLY!

YOU CAN SPEND THE NIGHT HERE... HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'LL SOON BE BACK, GRANDMA.

WHERE HAS HE GONE?


BALARAJU BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE TIGER. AFTER SOME TIME HE FOUND HIMSELF OUTSIDE A PALACE.
I'LL LIE DOWN HERE AND WAIT FOR HIM TO FIND ME.

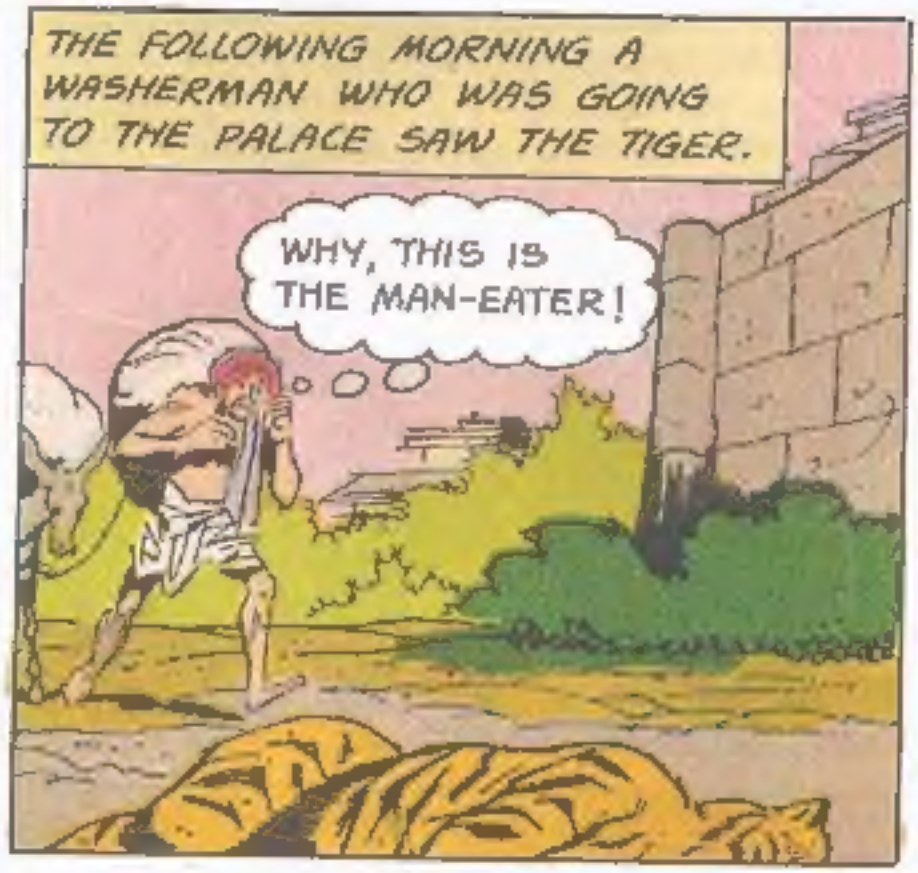
PRESENTLY A DARK SHAPE APPEARED IN THE DISTANCE.
THERE HE COMES!

WHACK

HE'S DEAD!

BALARAJU CUT OFF THE TIGER'S PAWS AND TAIL...

...AND WENT BACK TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE.


THE FOLLOWING MORNING A WASHERMAN WHO WAS GOING TO THE PALACE SAW THE TIGER.
WHY, THIS IS THE MAN-EATER!

HE MUST HAVE DIED OF INDIGES-TION OR SOME-THING! WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK!

THE WASHERMAN RUSHED TO THE PALACE.
MAHARAJ, NOBODY NEED FEAR THE TIGER ANYMORE.

I MET HIM JUST NOW AND... AND I BEAT HIM TO DEATH!
YOU DID WHAT?

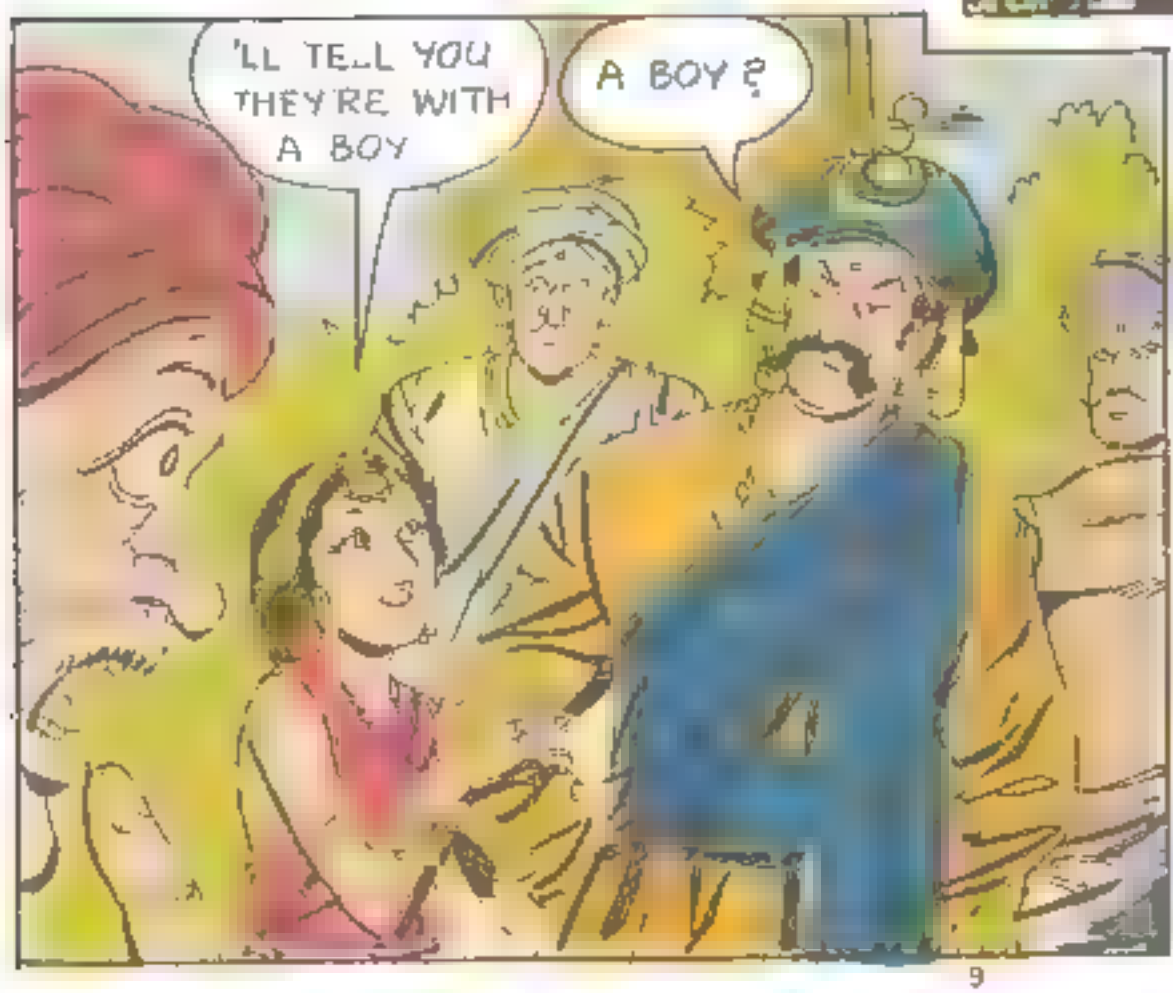
I BEAT HIM TO DEATH. HE IS LYING OUTSIDE.

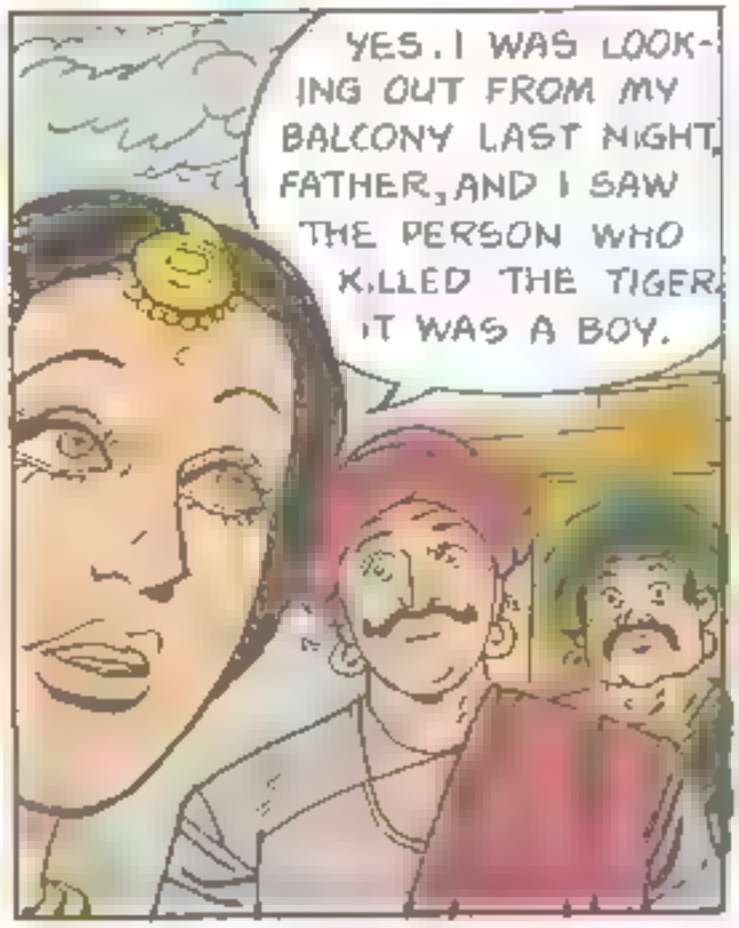
THE TIGER WAS BROUGHT IN AND EVERYONE MARVELLED AT THE WASHERMAN'S BRAVERY
HE HAS PUT OUR GREATEST WARRIORS TO SHAME

YOU HAVE DONE THE KINGDOM A GREAT SERVICE. YOU WILL BE WELL REWARDED.
WAIT, FATHER!

PLEASE ASK HIM WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TIGER'S PAWS AND TAIL.
PAWS AND TAIL?

THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TIGER'S PAWS AND TAIL?
..!.


'LL TELL YOU THEY'RE WITH A BOY
A BOY?


YES. I WAS LOOKING OUT FROM MY BALCONY LAST NIGHT, FATHER, AND I SAW THE PERSON WHO KILLED THE TIGER. IT WAS A BOY.

I SENT MY MAID AFTER HIM TO SEE WHERE HE LIVED.

IS THIS TRUE?
I... I.

FORGIVE ME, MAHARAJ!

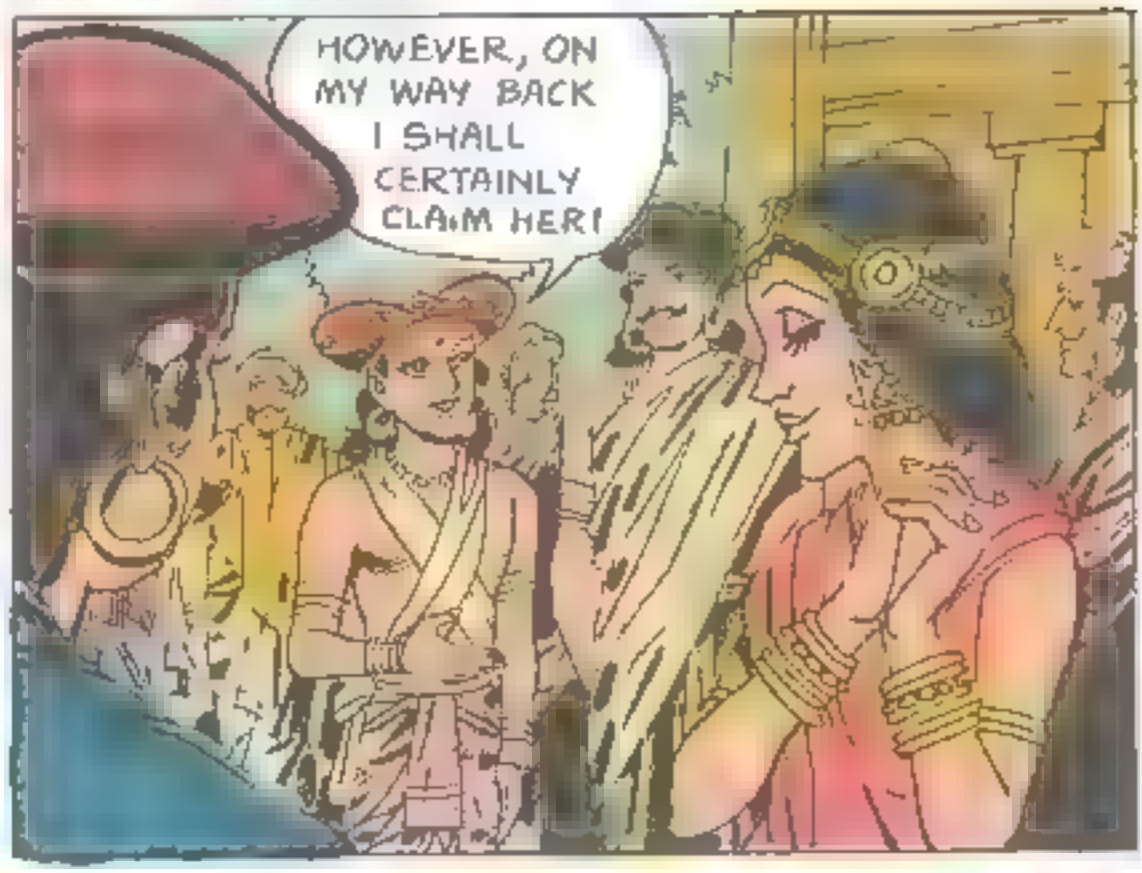
BRING THE BOY HERE!

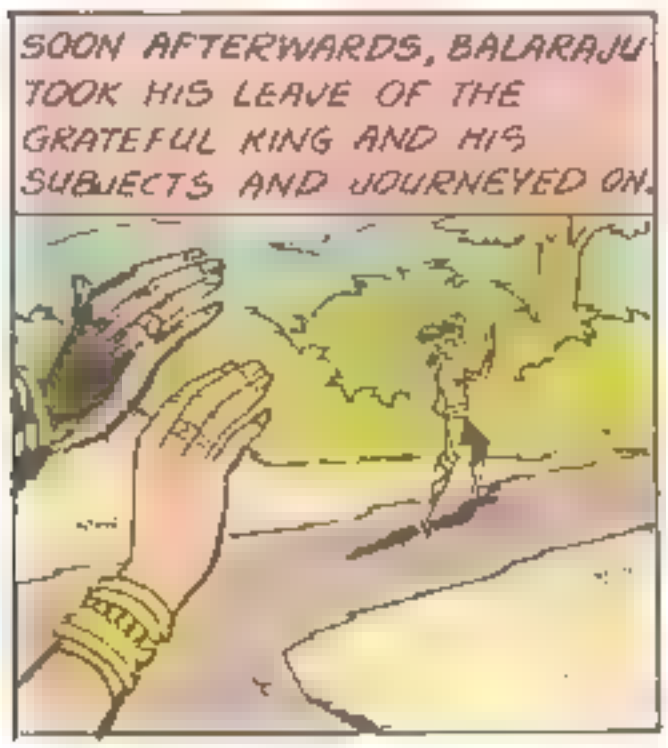
BALARAMA WAS BROUGHT TO THE PALACE
WAS IT YOU WHO SLEW THE TIGER?
YES, MAHARAJ.

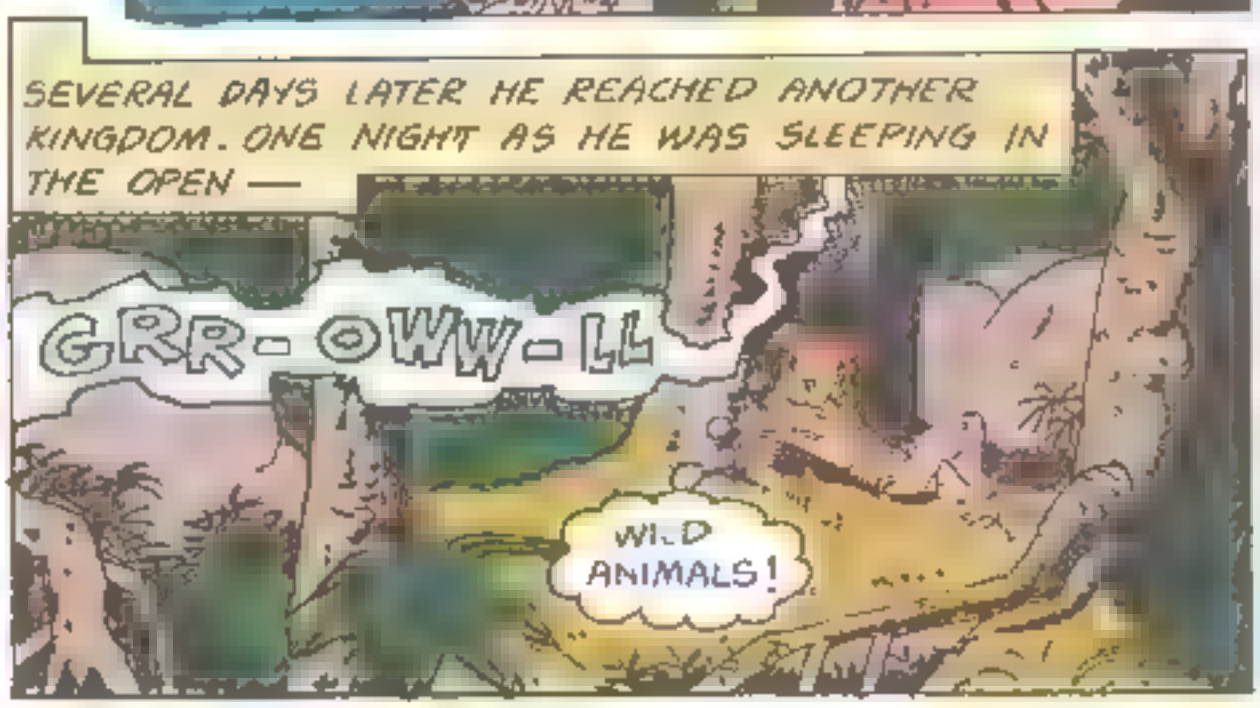
HERE ARE ITS PAWS AND TAIL.
I CAN SEE YOU ARE NOT AN ORDINARY BOY

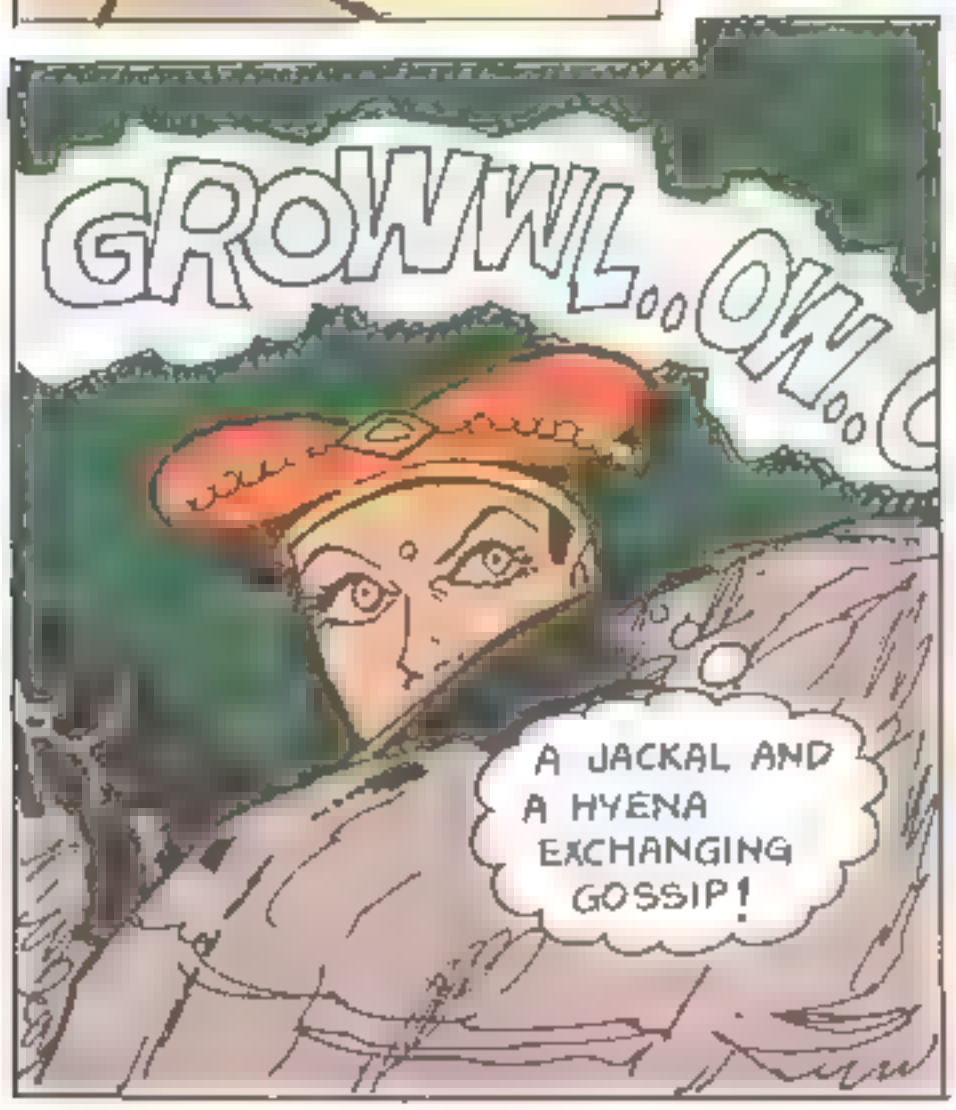
STAY HERE AND MARRY MY DAUGHTER.
I AM HONOURED, MAHARAJ, BUT...

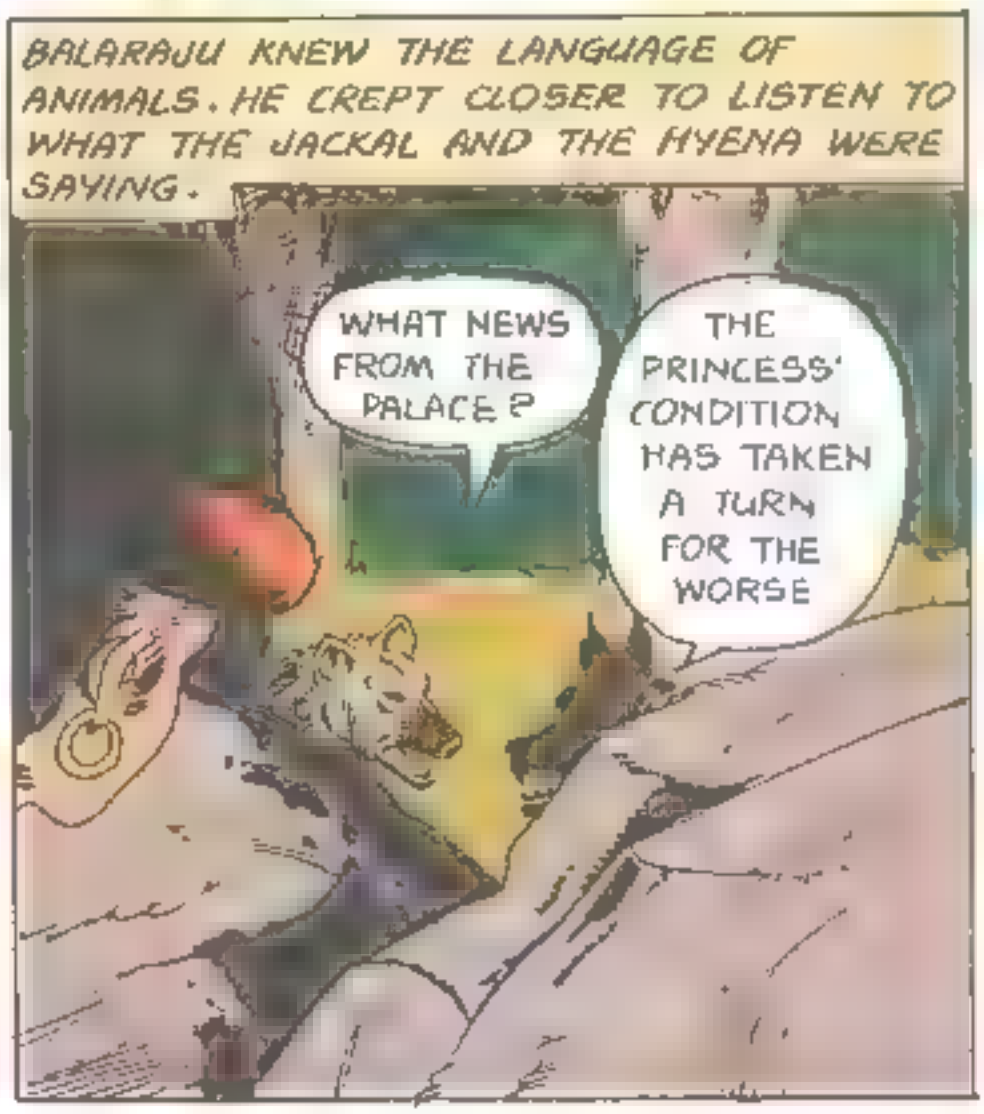
... I CANNOT STAY HERE. I AM ON MY WAY TO THE CITY OF THE MAGICIAN TO FIND MY PARENTS

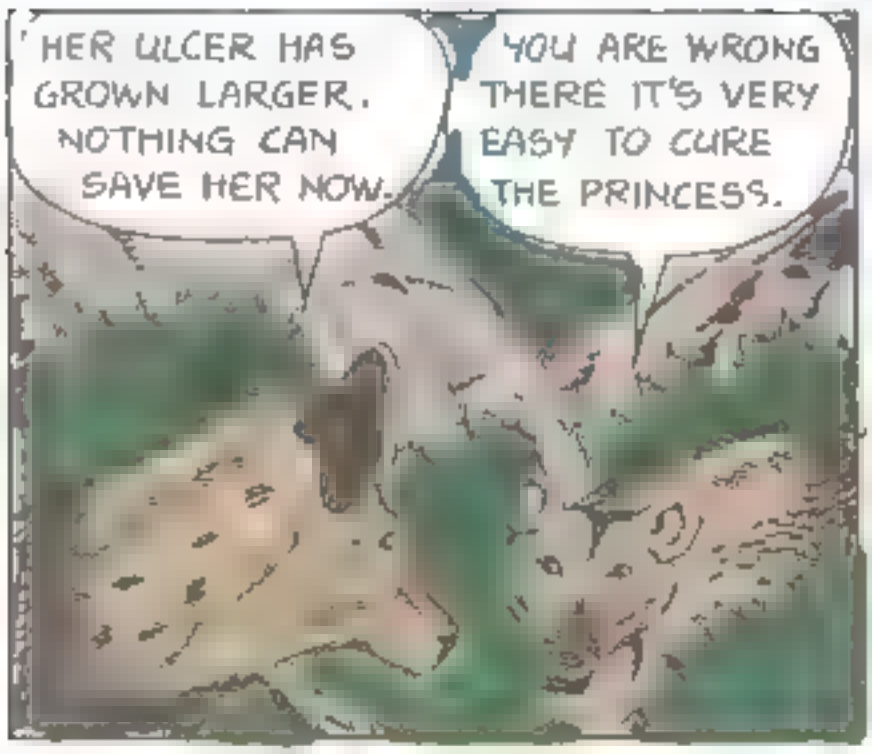

HOWEVER, ON MY WAY BACK I SHALL CERTAINLY CLAIM HER!

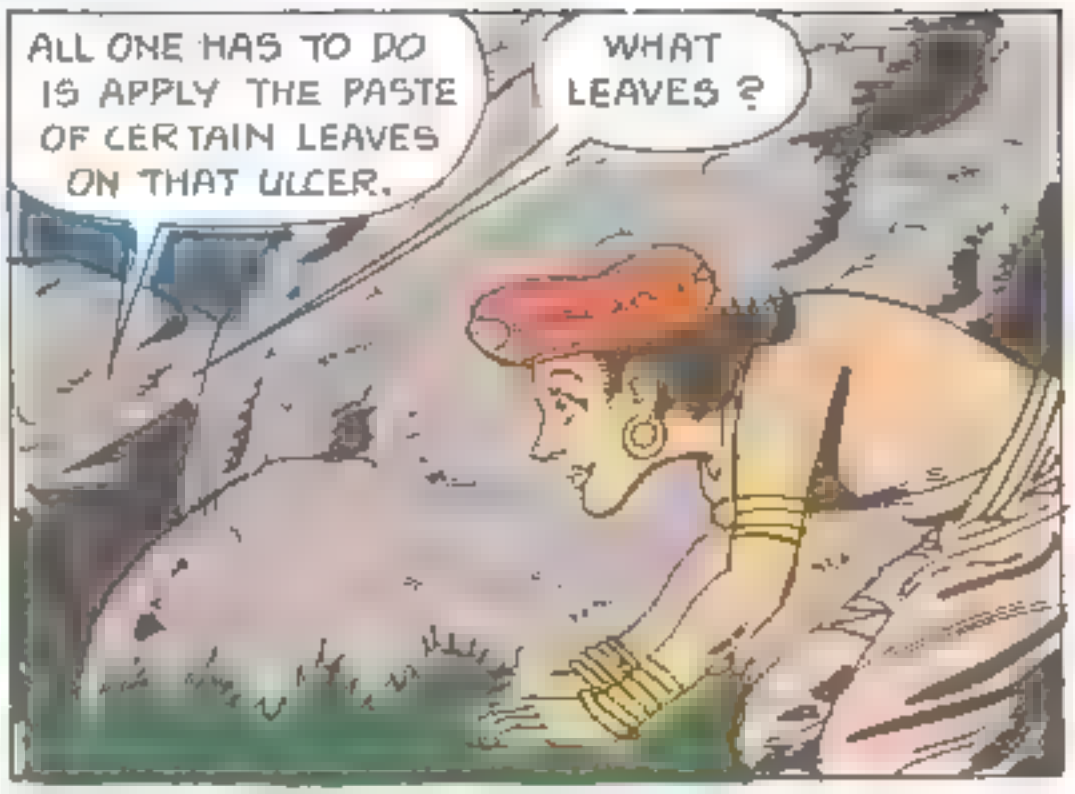

SOON AFTERWARDS, BALARAJU TOOK HIS LEAVE OF THE GRATEFUL KING AND HIS SUBJECTS AND JOURNEYED ON.

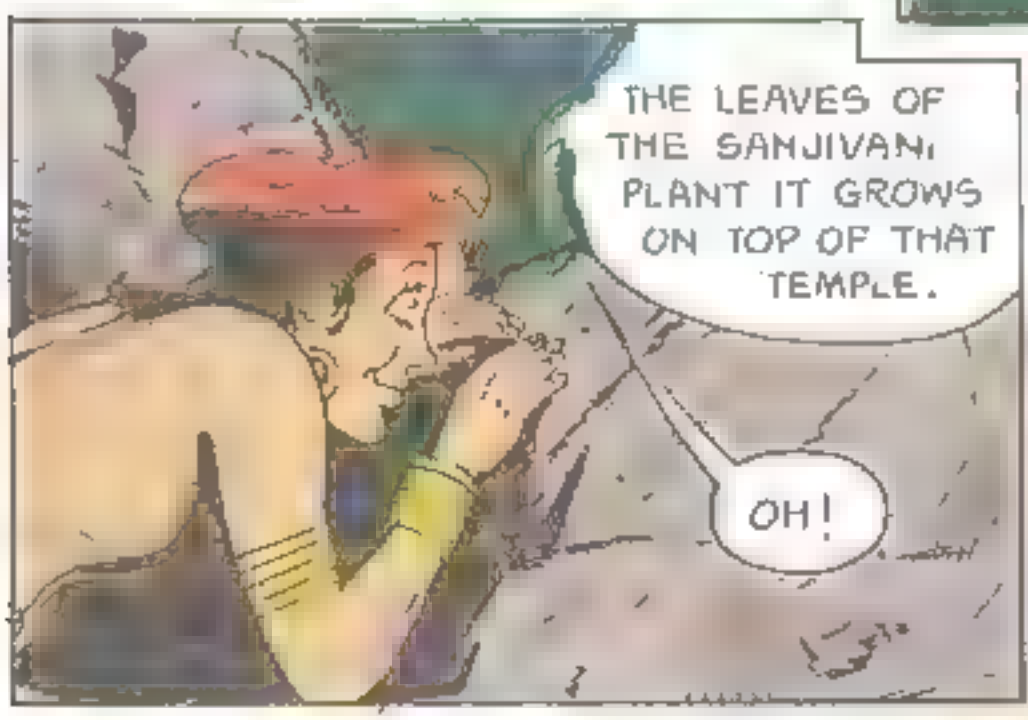

SEVERAL DAYS LATER HE REACHED ANOTHER KINGDOM. ONE NIGHT AS HE WAS SLEEPING IN THE OPEN —
GRR-OWW-LL
WILD ANIMALS!


GROWWL..OW..
A JACKAL AND A HYENA EXCHANGING GOSSIP!

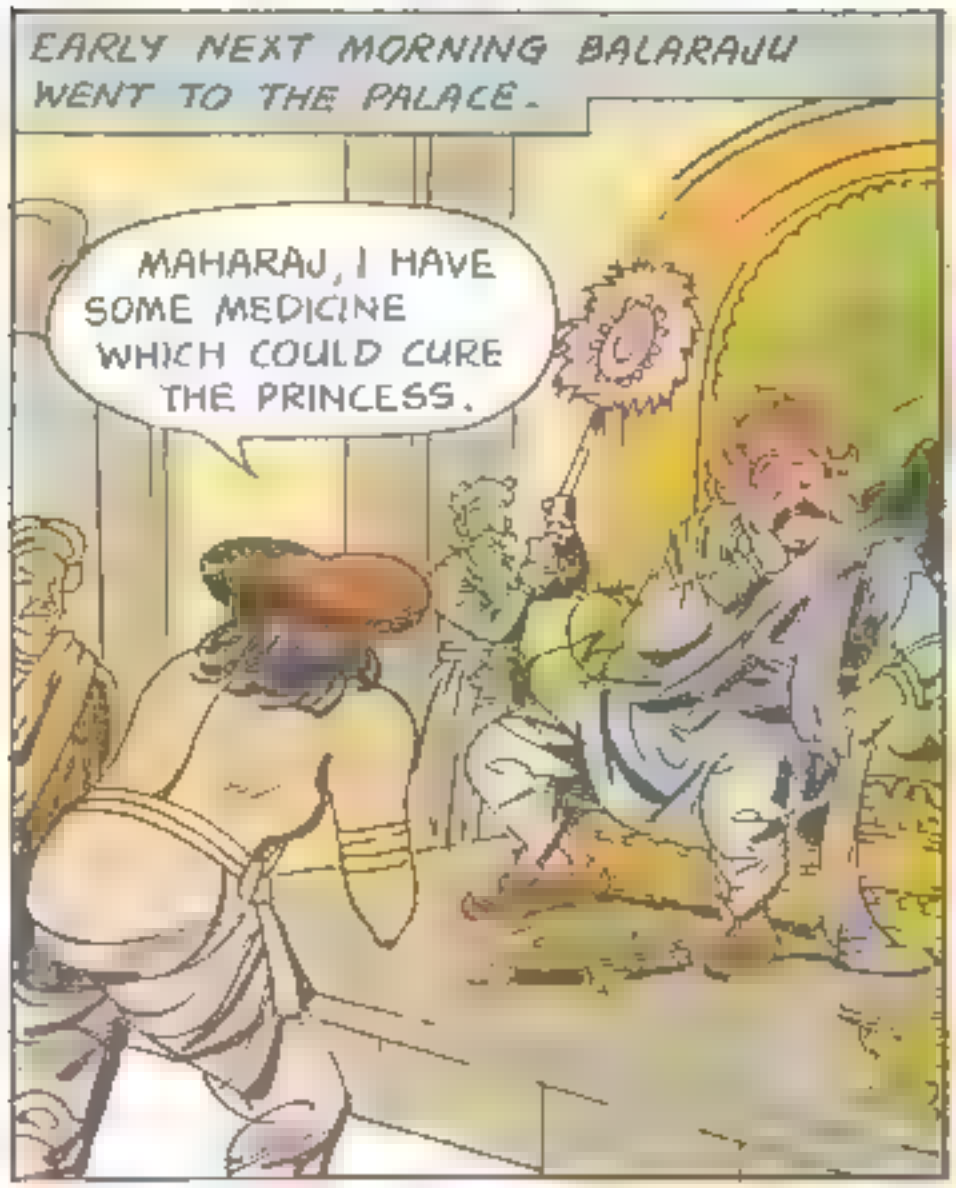

BALARAJU KNEW THE LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS. HE CREPT CLOSER TO LISTEN TO WHAT THE JACKAL AND THE HYENA WERE SAYING.
WHAT NEWS FROM THE PALACE?
THE PRINCESS' CONDITION HAS TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE

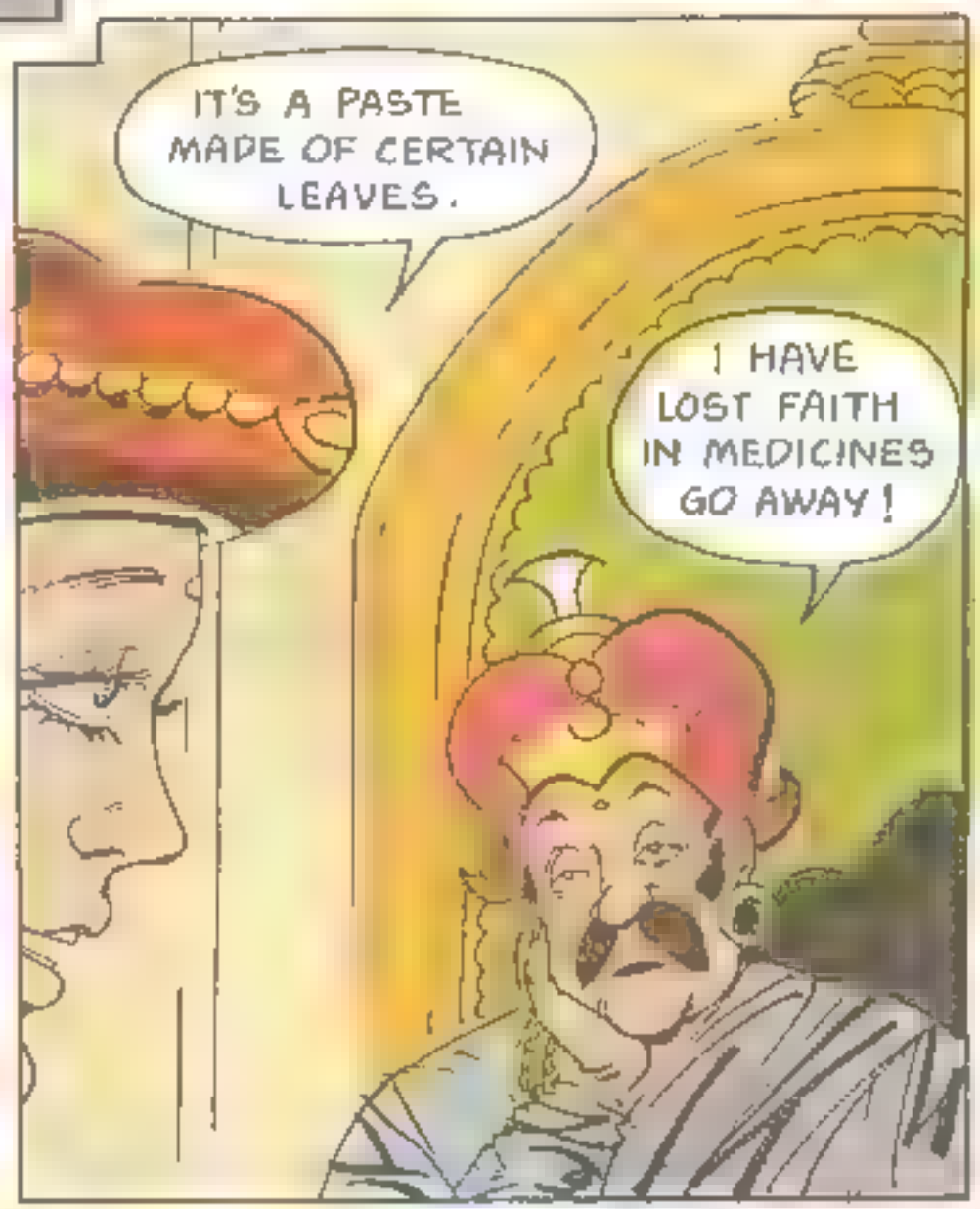

HER ULCER HAS GROWN LARGER. NOTHING CAN SAVE HER NOW.
YOU ARE WRONG THERE IT'S VERY EASY TO CURE THE PRINCESS.

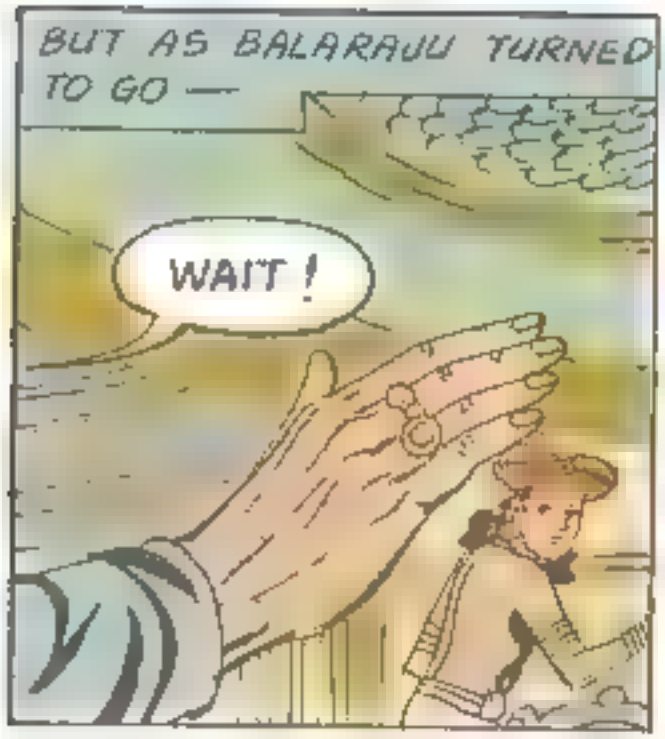

ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS APPLY THE PASTE OF CERTAIN LEAVES ON THAT ULCER.
WHAT LEAVES ?


THE LEAVES OF THE SANJIVANI PLANT IT GROWS ON TOP OF THAT TEMPLE.
OH!

BUT PLEASE KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF IT'S A SECRET.
YOU CAN TRUST ME.


EARLY NEXT MORNING BALARAJU WENT TO THE PALACE.
MAHARAJ, I HAVE SOME MEDICINE WHICH COULD CURE THE PRINCESS.

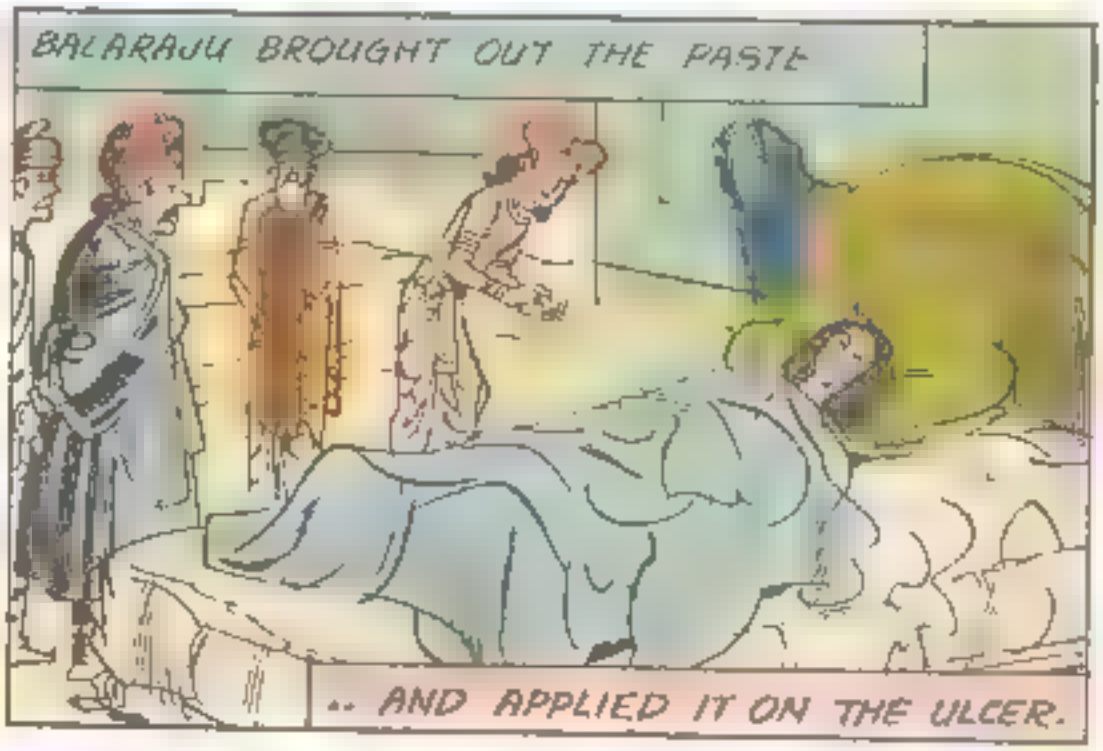

IT'S A PASTE MADE OF CERTAIN LEAVES.
I HAVE LOST FAITH IN MEDICINES GO AWAY!


BUT AS BALARAJU TURNED TO GO —
WAIT !

I KNOW IT WON'T WORK. YET .

COME WITH ME. I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PRINCESS' ROOM

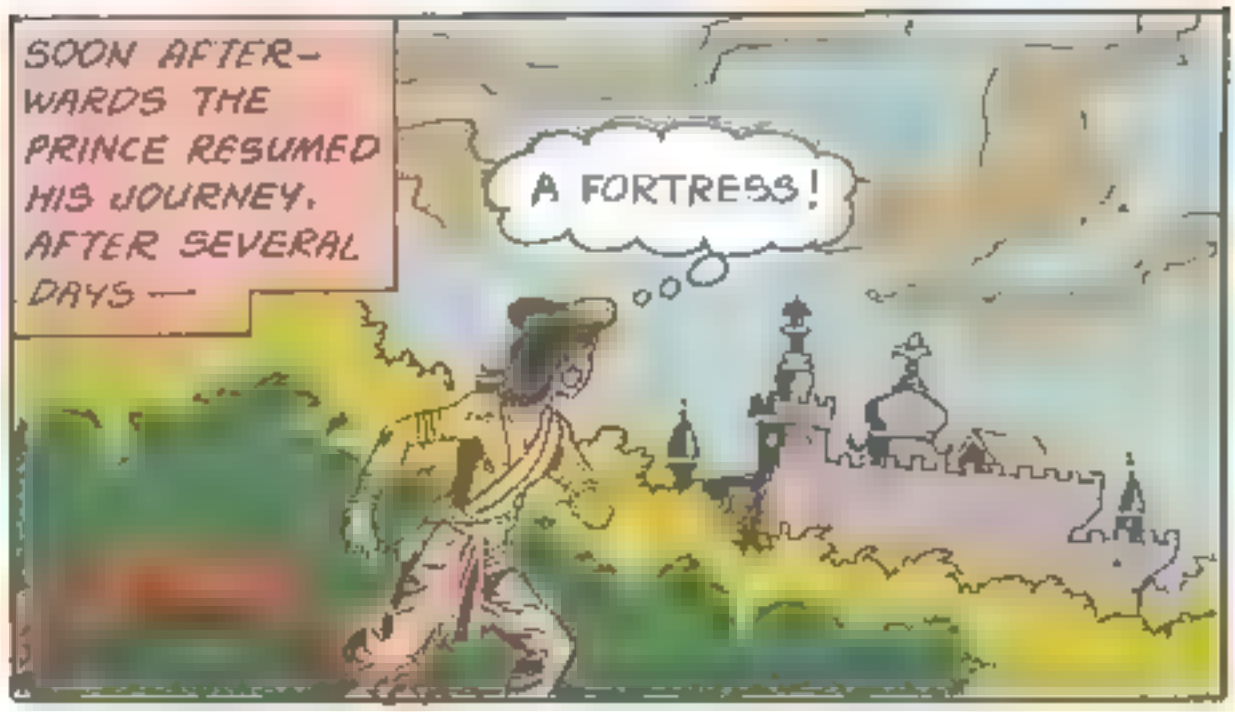
THE PRINCESS ROOM WAS CROWDED WITH PHYSICIANS.
WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING MORE FOR HER, YOUR MAJESTY
MAKE WAY FOR THIS BOY THEN.


BALARAJU BROUGHT OUT THE PASTE
.. AND APPLIED IT ON THE ULCER.

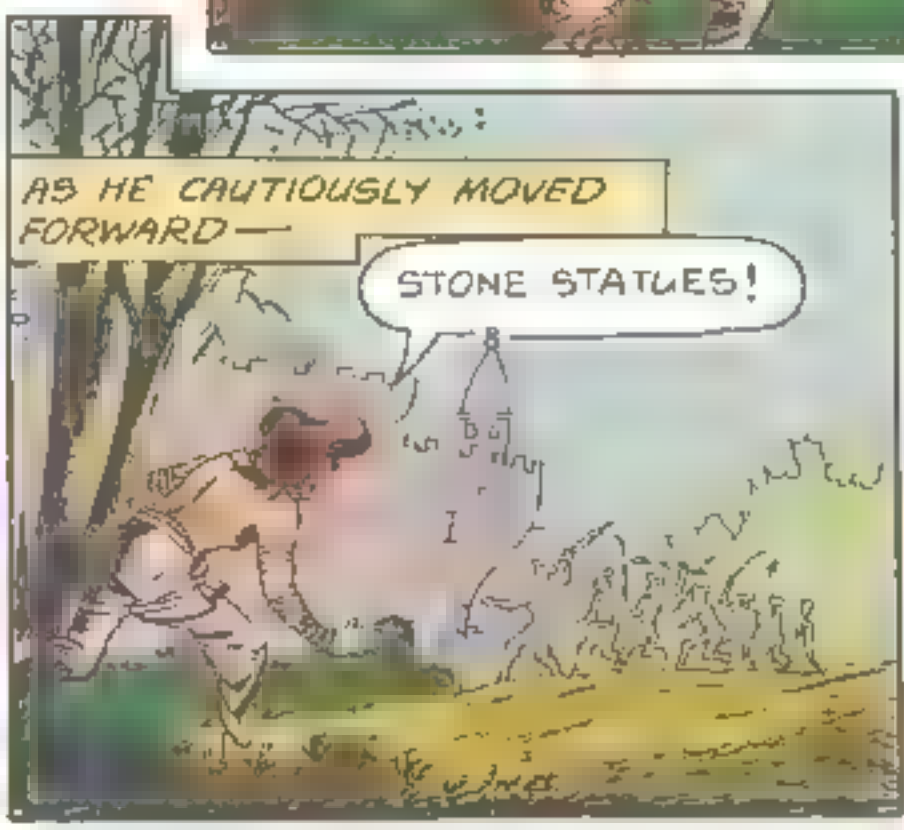
SOON –
SHE'S STIRRING!
SHE'S OPENING HER EYES!
YOU'VE PERFORMED A MIRACLE!

CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH! ASK FOR ANYTHING YOU WANT.
I WANT NOTHING, MAHARAJ

I'M ON MY WAY TO THE CITY OF THE MAGICIAN TO SEARCH FOR MY PARENTS. AND I DON'T WANT TO BE BURDENED WITH GIFTS


SOON AFTERWARDS THE PRINCE RESUMED HIS JOURNEY. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS —
A FORTRESS!

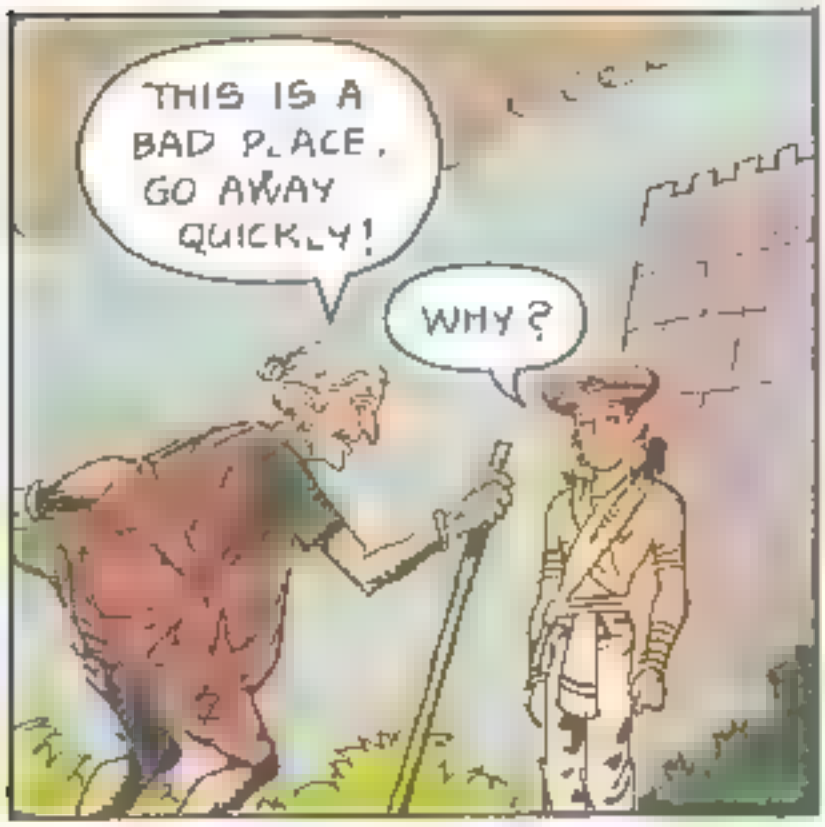
COULD IT BE THE MAGICIAN'S?

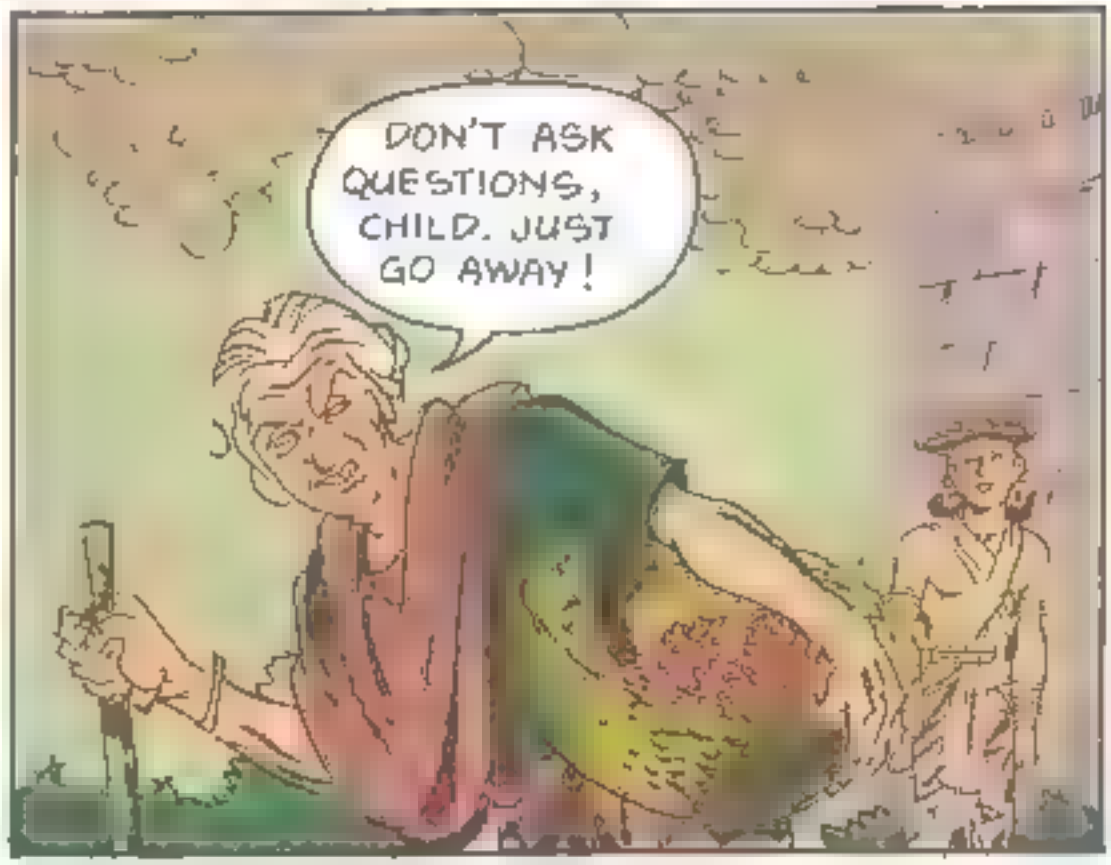

AS HE CAUTIOUSLY MOVED FORWARD —
STONE STATUES!

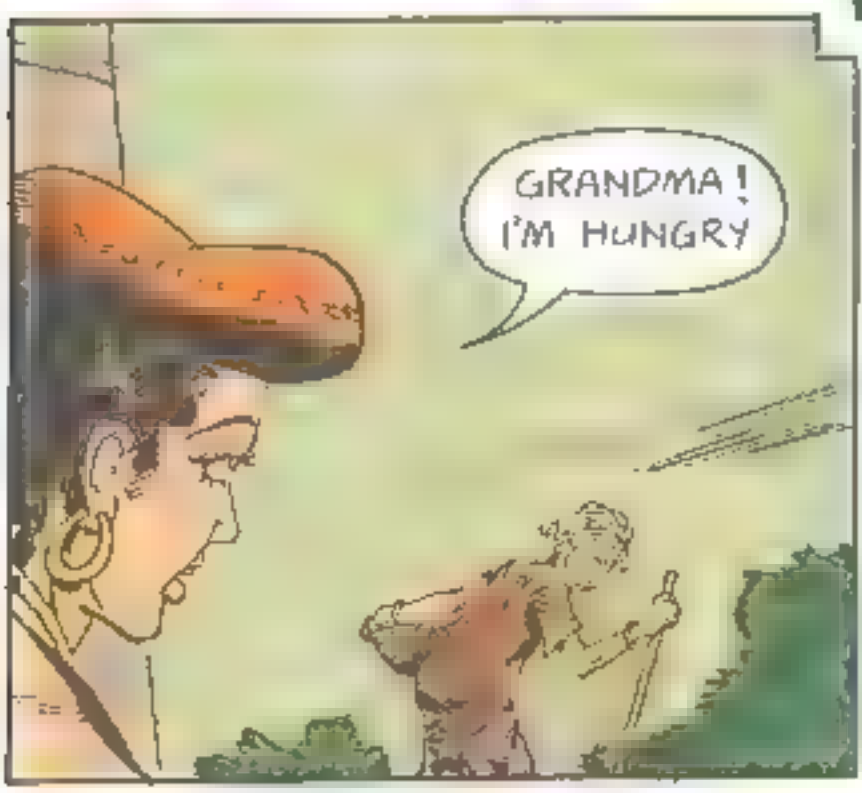
WHAT ARE THEY DOING OUT HERE? AND THERE IS SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT THEM

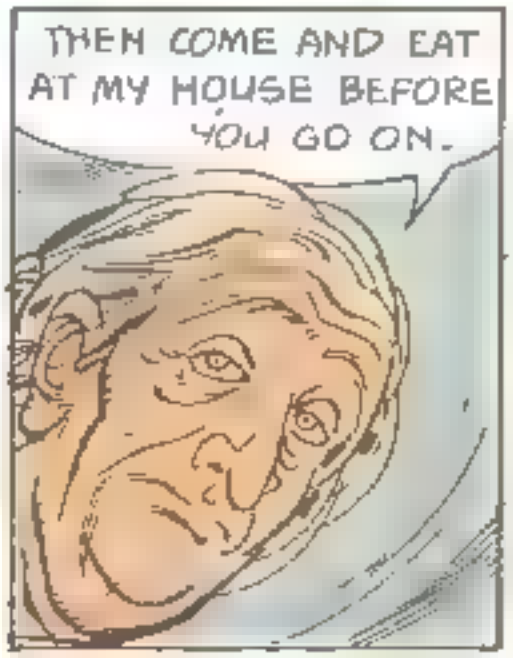
THEY LOOK AS IF THEY WERE REAL PERSONS SUDDENLY TURNED INTO STONE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SON?

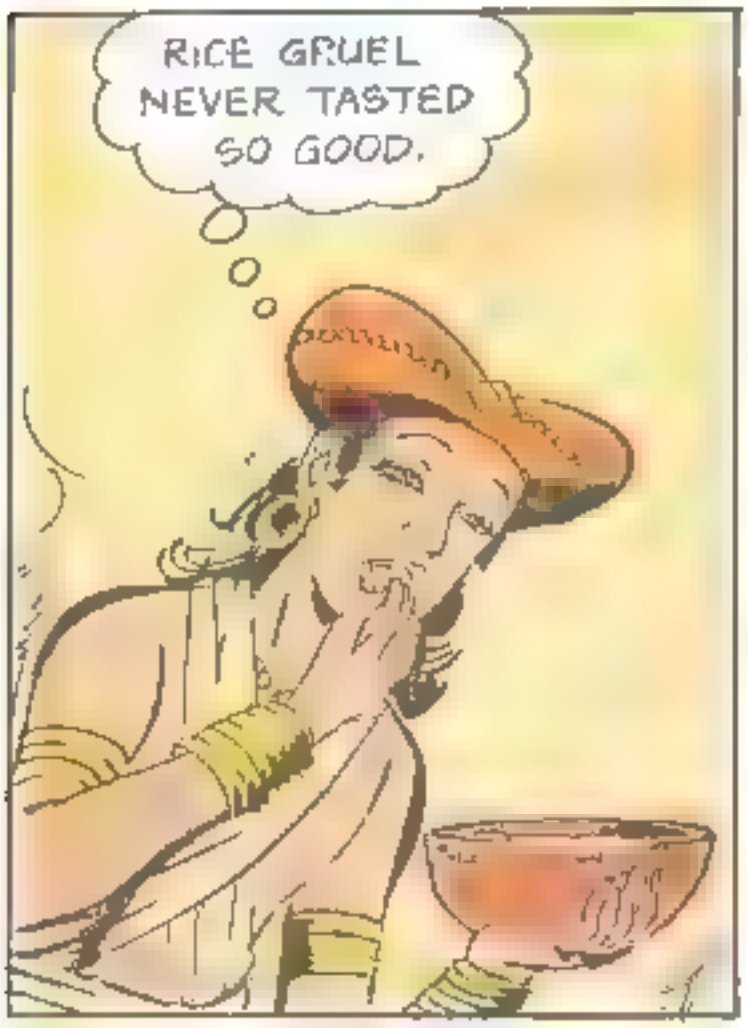

THIS IS A BAD PLACE. GO AWAY QUICKLY!
WHY?

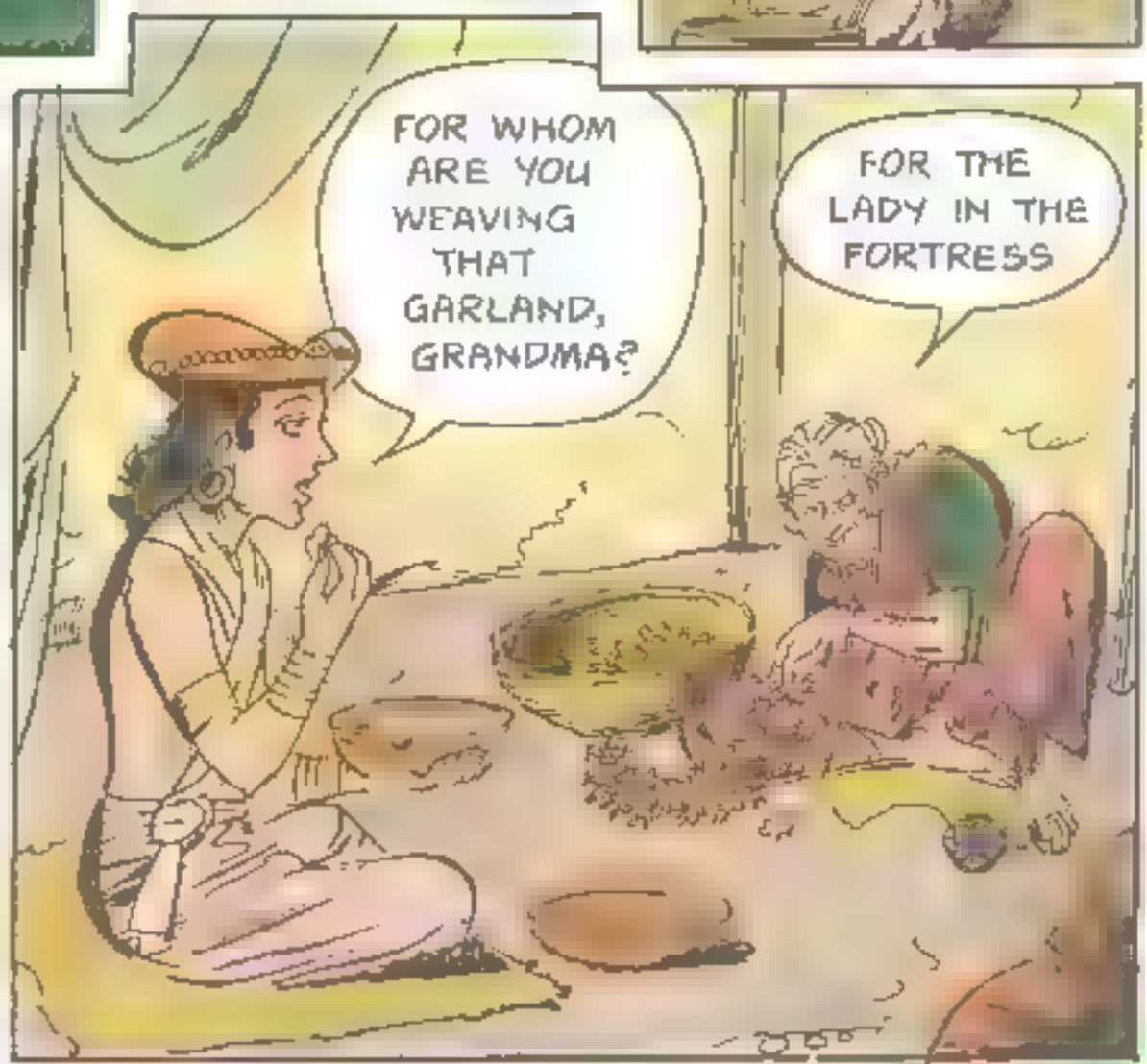

DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, CHILD. JUST GO AWAY!

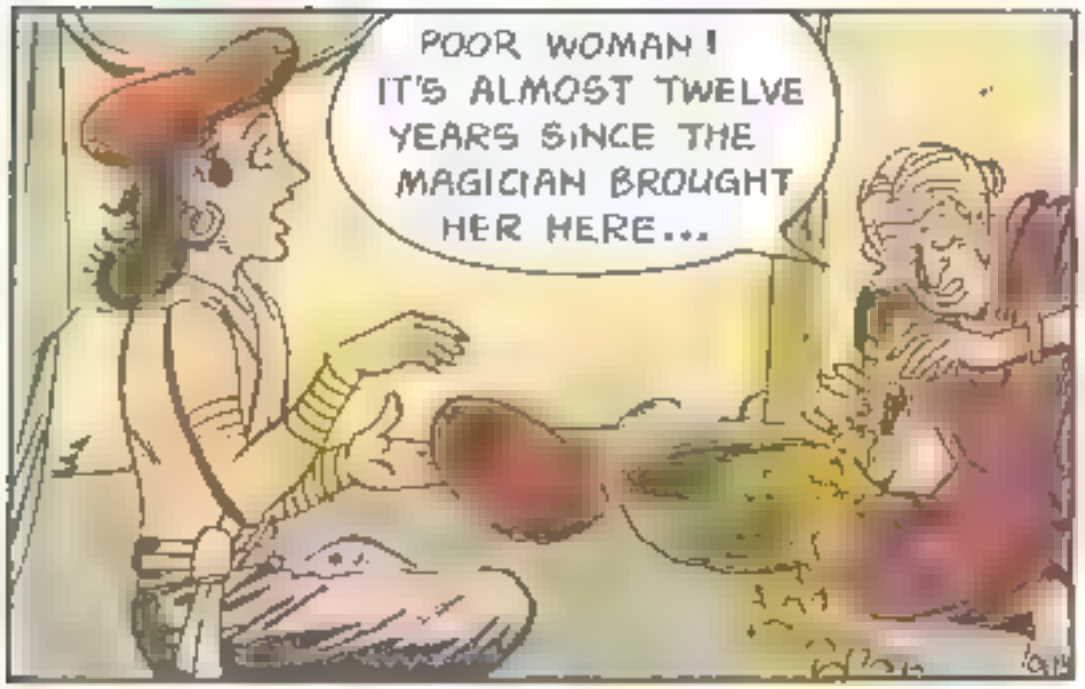

GRANDMA! I'M HUNGRY


THEN COME AND EAT AT MY HOUSE BEFORE YOU GO ON.

SOMETIME LATER—


RICE GRUEL NEVER TASTED SO GOOD.

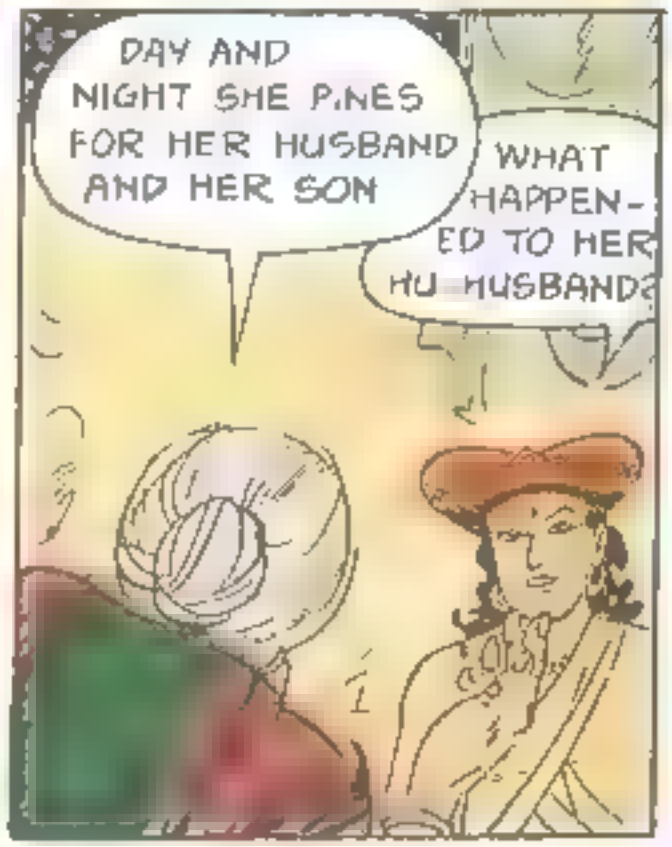

FOR WHOM ARE YOU WEAVING THAT GARLAND, GRANDMA?
FOR THE LADY IN THE FORTRESS


POOR WOMAN! IT'S ALMOST TWELVE YEARS SINCE THE MAGICIAN BROUGHT HER HERE...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
N-NOTHING

THEY SAY HE BROUGHT HER HERE IN THE FORM OF A DOG.
I'VE FOUND MY MOTHER AT LAST!

HOW . HOW IS SHE?
THE LADY? OH, SHE MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD!


DAY AND NIGHT SHE PINES FOR HER HUSBAND AND HER SON
WHAT HAPPEN-ED TO HER HU HUSBAND?

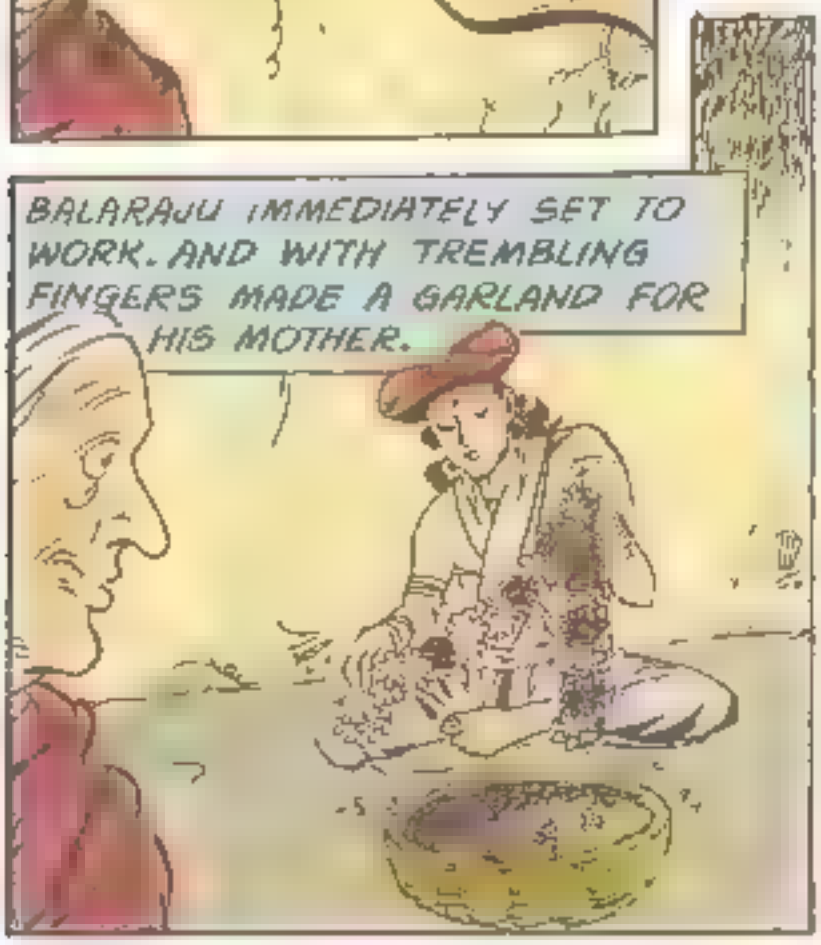
THE MAGICIAN TURNED HIM AND HIS BROTHERS INTO STONE
STONE?

THOSE STATUES! THEY ARE MY FATHER AND MY UNCLES!

YOU LOOK PALE, CHILD. ARE YOU ILL?

NO! NO! GRANDMA, WILL YOU LET ME STAY HERE?

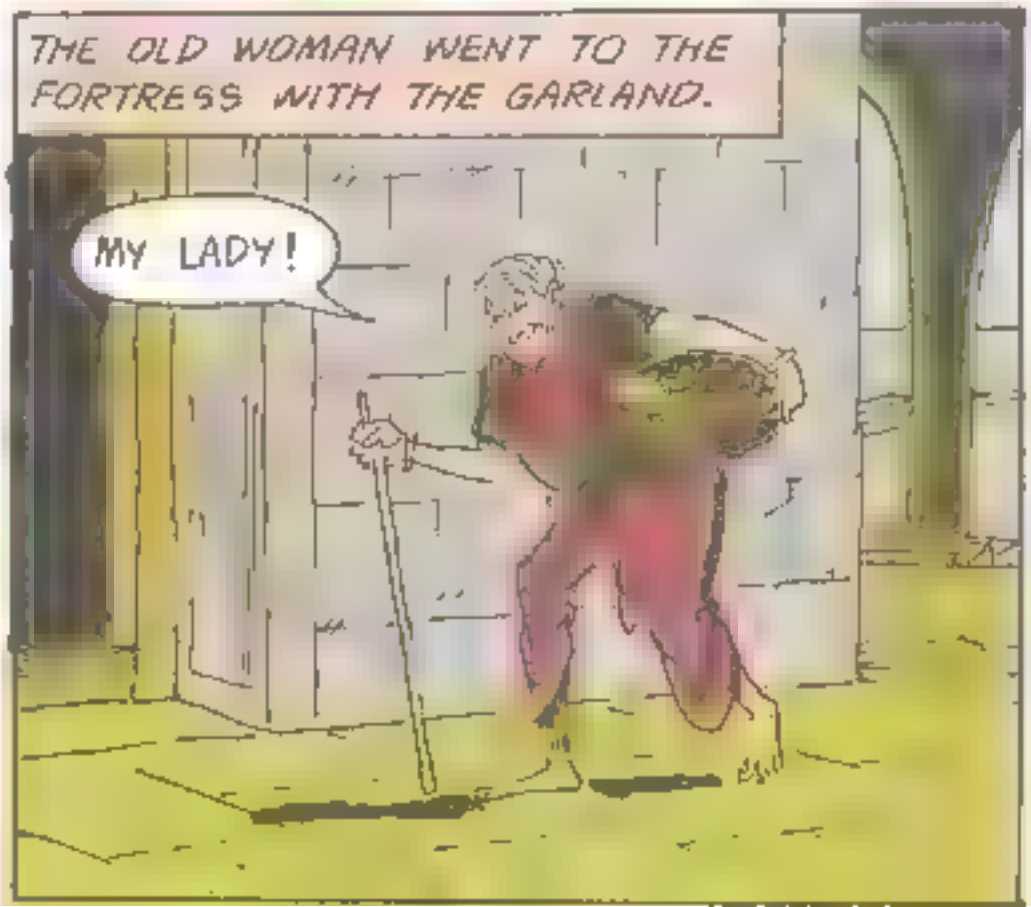
I'LL HELP YOU WEAVE GARLANDS. I'M VERY GOOD AT IT.
ALL RIGHT. I COULD DO WITH SOME HELP

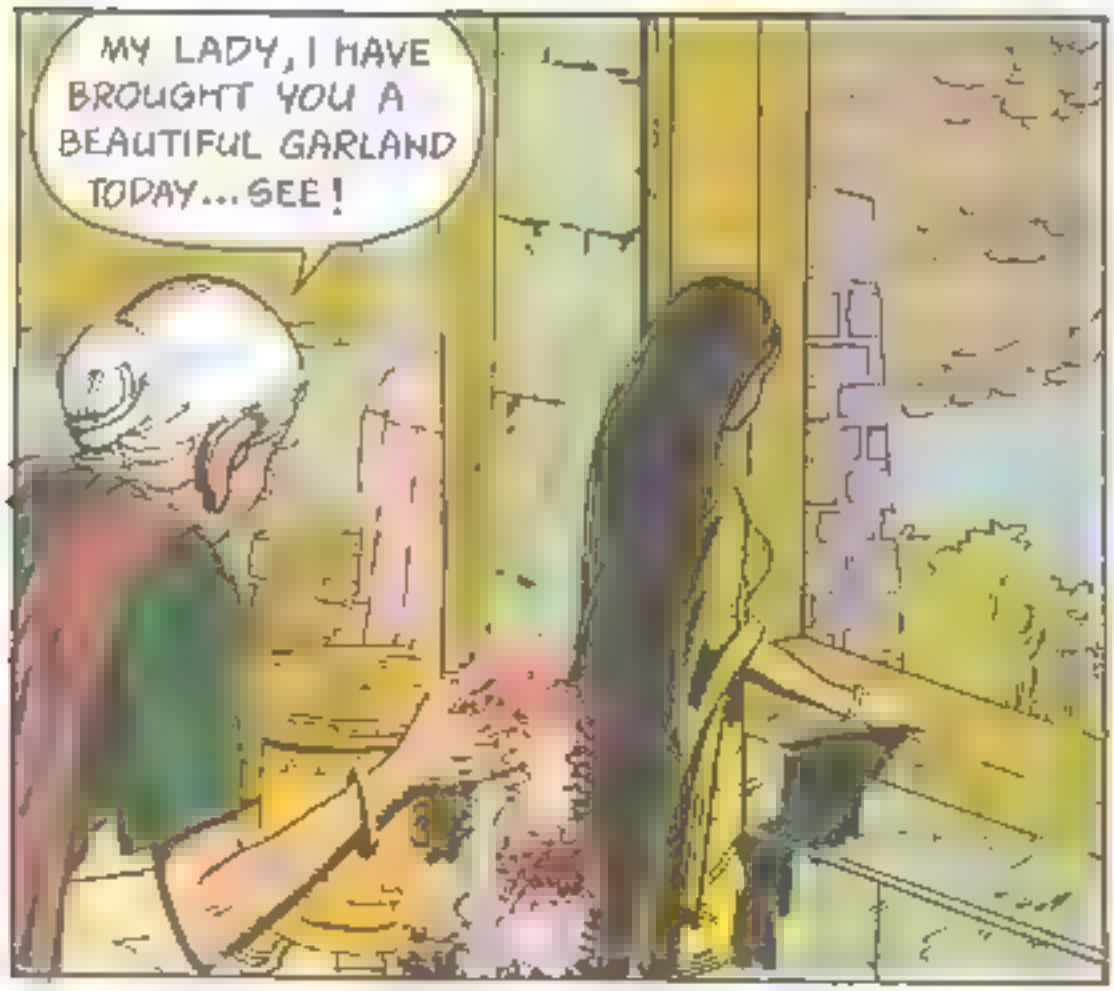

BALARAJU IMMEDIATELY SET TO WORK. AND WITH TREMBLING FINGERS MADE A GARLAND FOR HIS MOTHER.

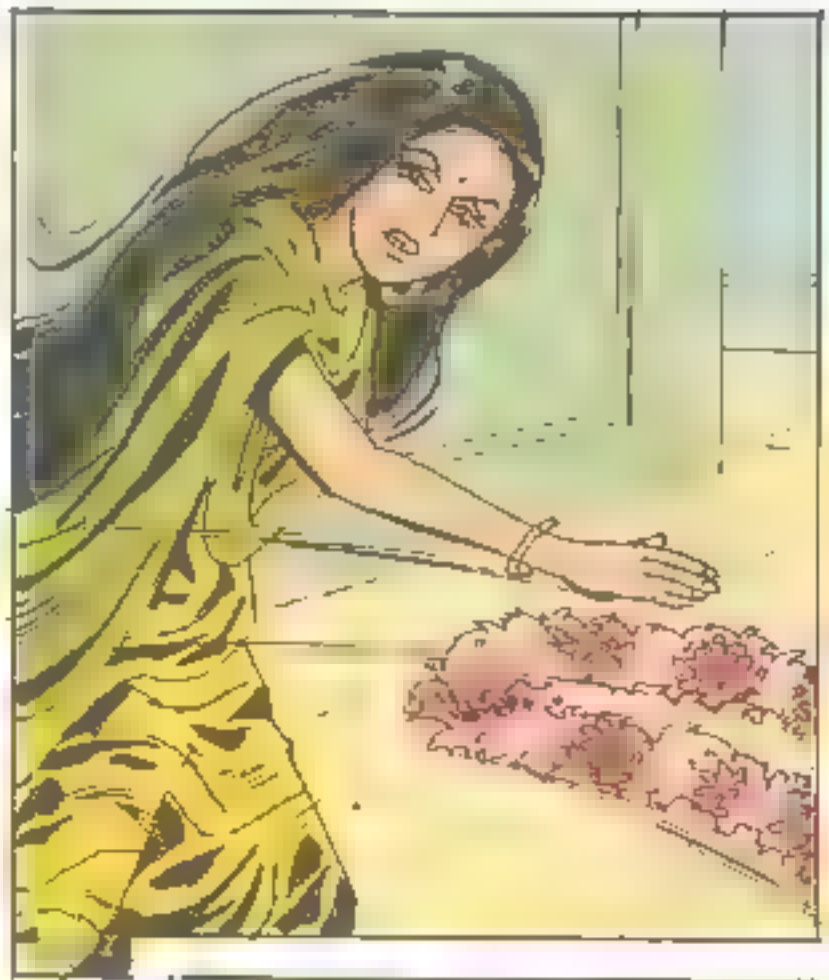
PLEASE GIVE THIS TO THE LADY.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

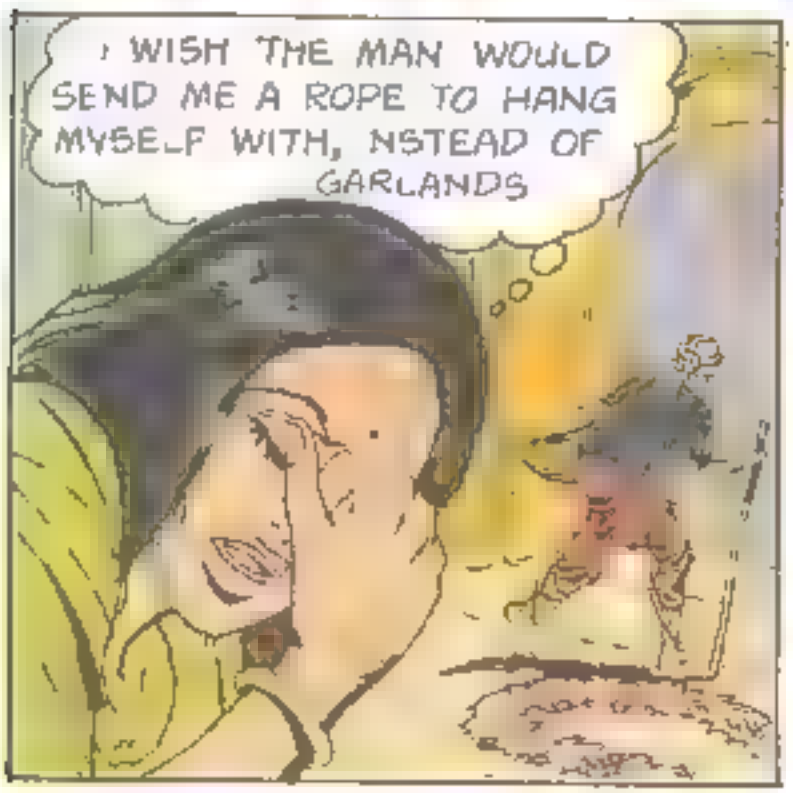
I'LL GIVE IT TO HER, BUT I DOUBT SHE'LL ACCEPT IT

SHE HASN'T ACCEPTED A SINGLE ONE ALL THESE YEARS. SHE WANTS NOTHING FROM THE MAGICIAN.


THE OLD WOMAN WENT TO THE FORTRESS WITH THE GARLAND.
MY LADY!

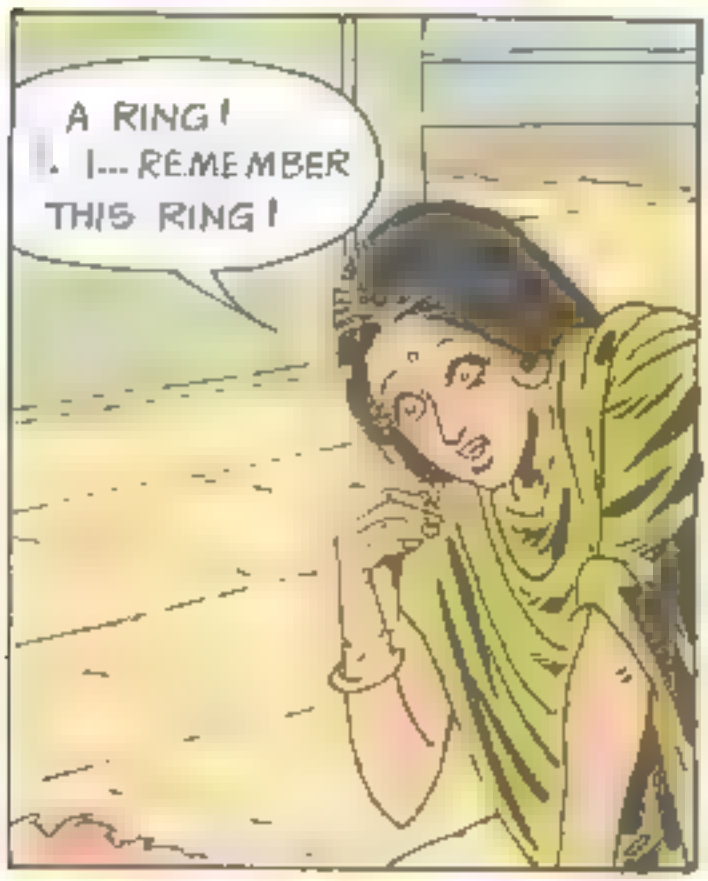

MY LADY, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A BEAUTIFUL GARLAND TODAY... SEE!




I WISH THE MAN WOULD SEND ME A ROPE TO HANG MYSELF WITH, INSTEAD OF GARLANDS

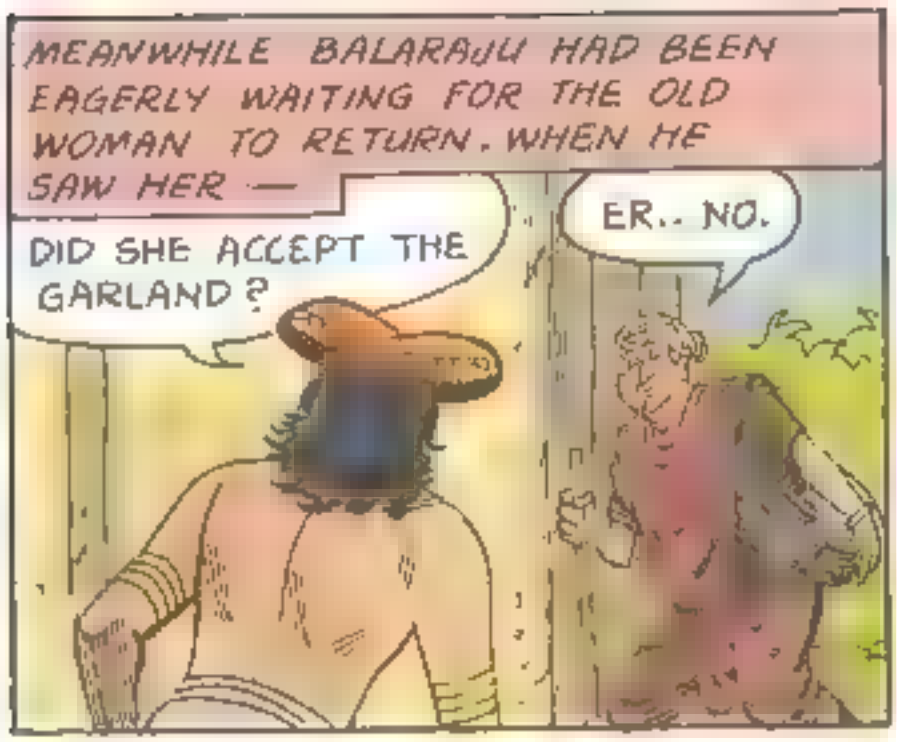
?

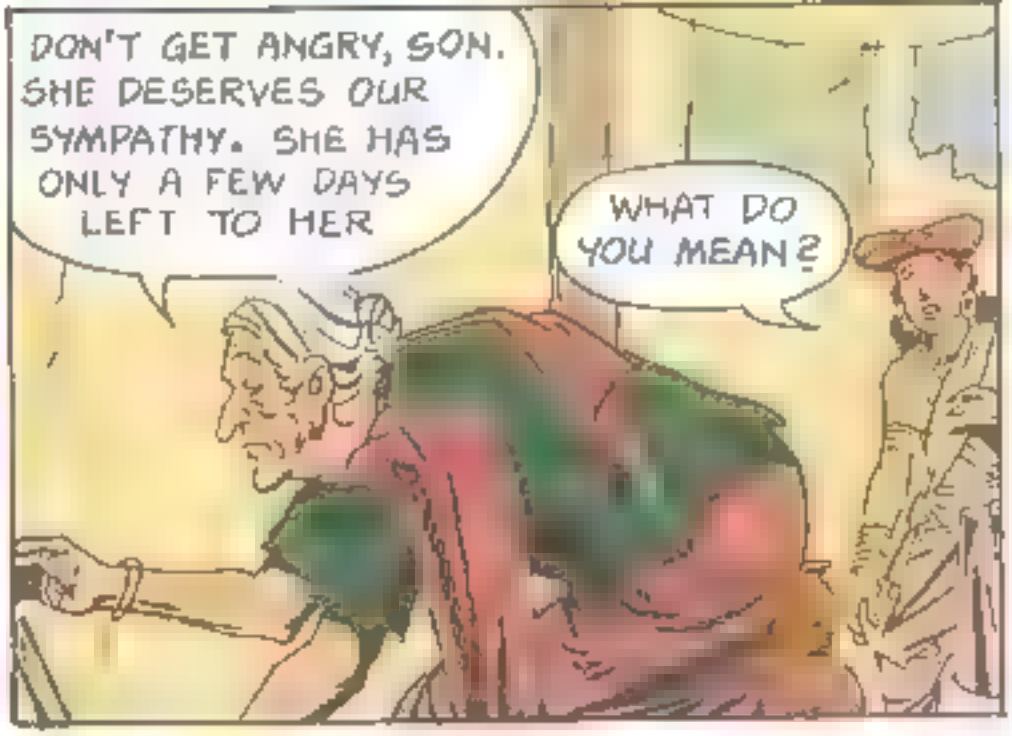
THERE'S SOMETHING GLITTERING AMONG THOSE FLOWERS.

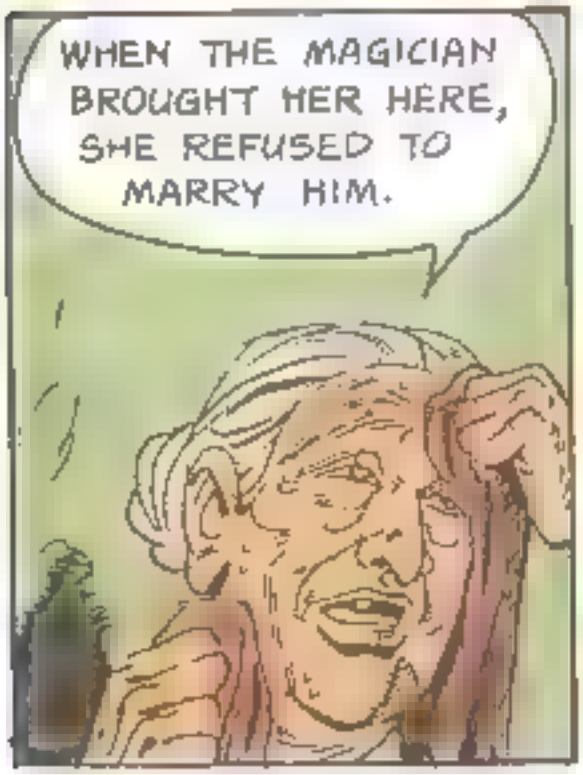

A RING! I... REMEMBER THIS RING!

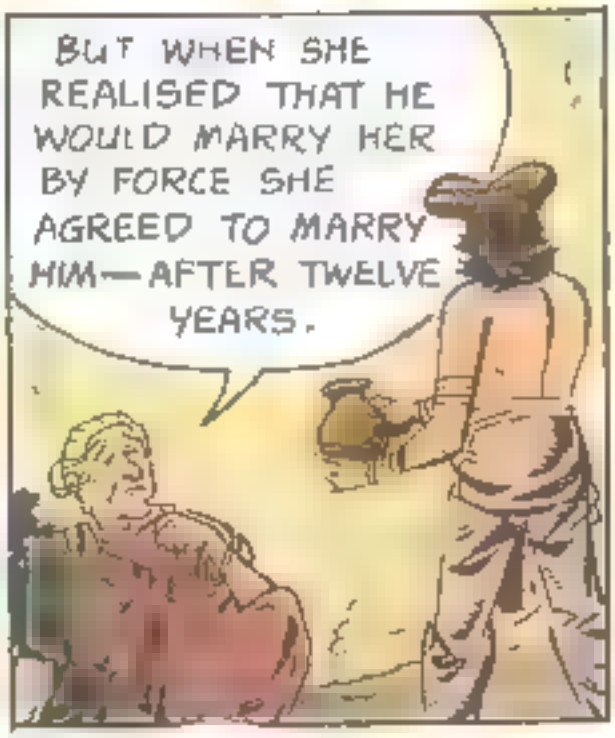
IT'S THE ONE I HAD PUT ON MY SON'S FINGER WHEN HE WAS FIVE DAYS OLD!

MY SON IS HERE! OH, MY SON!

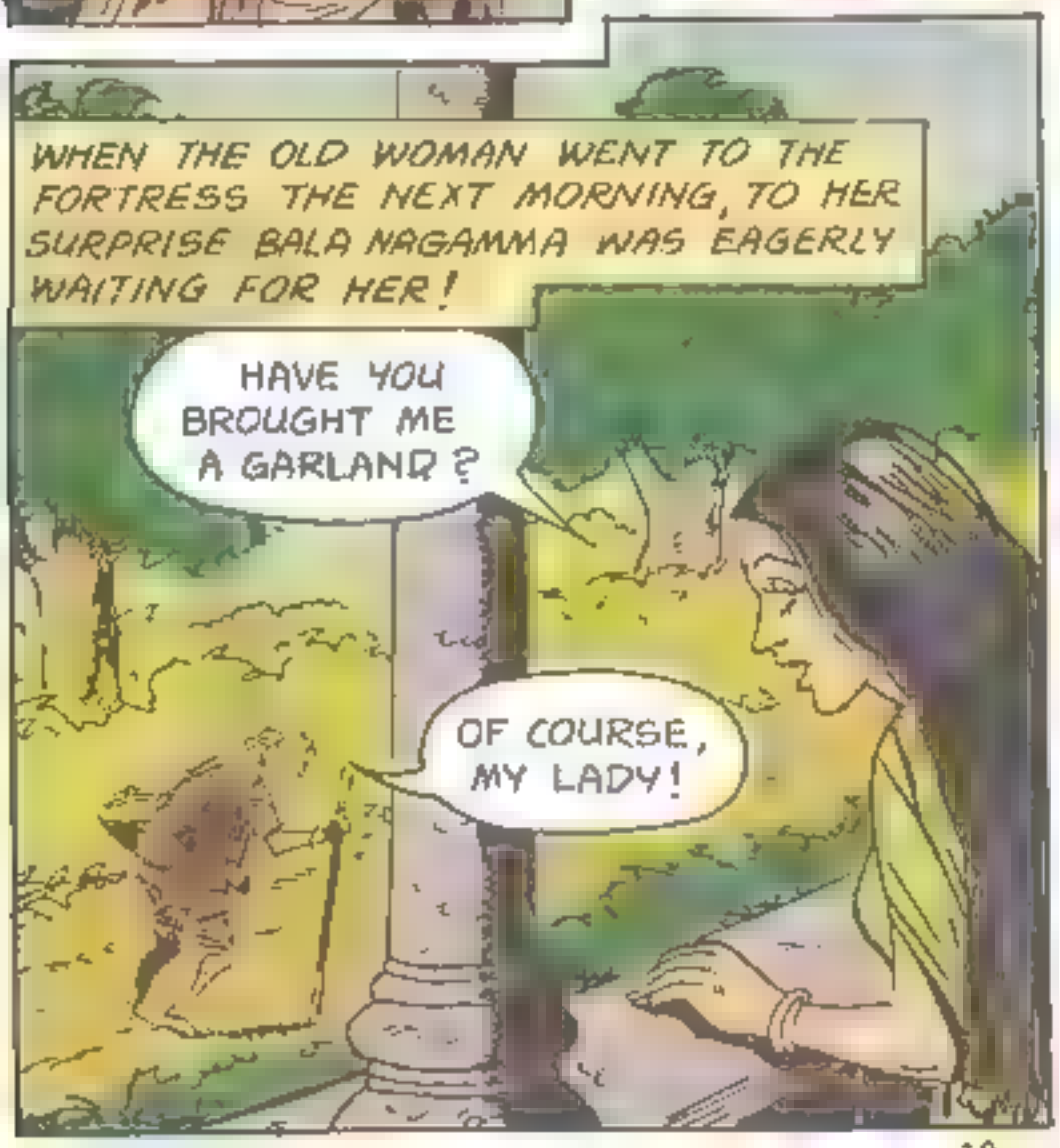

MEANWHILE BALARAJU HAD BEEN EAGERLY WAITING FOR THE OLD WOMAN TO RETURN. WHEN HE SAW HER —
DID SHE ACCEPT THE GARLAND?
ER.. NO.

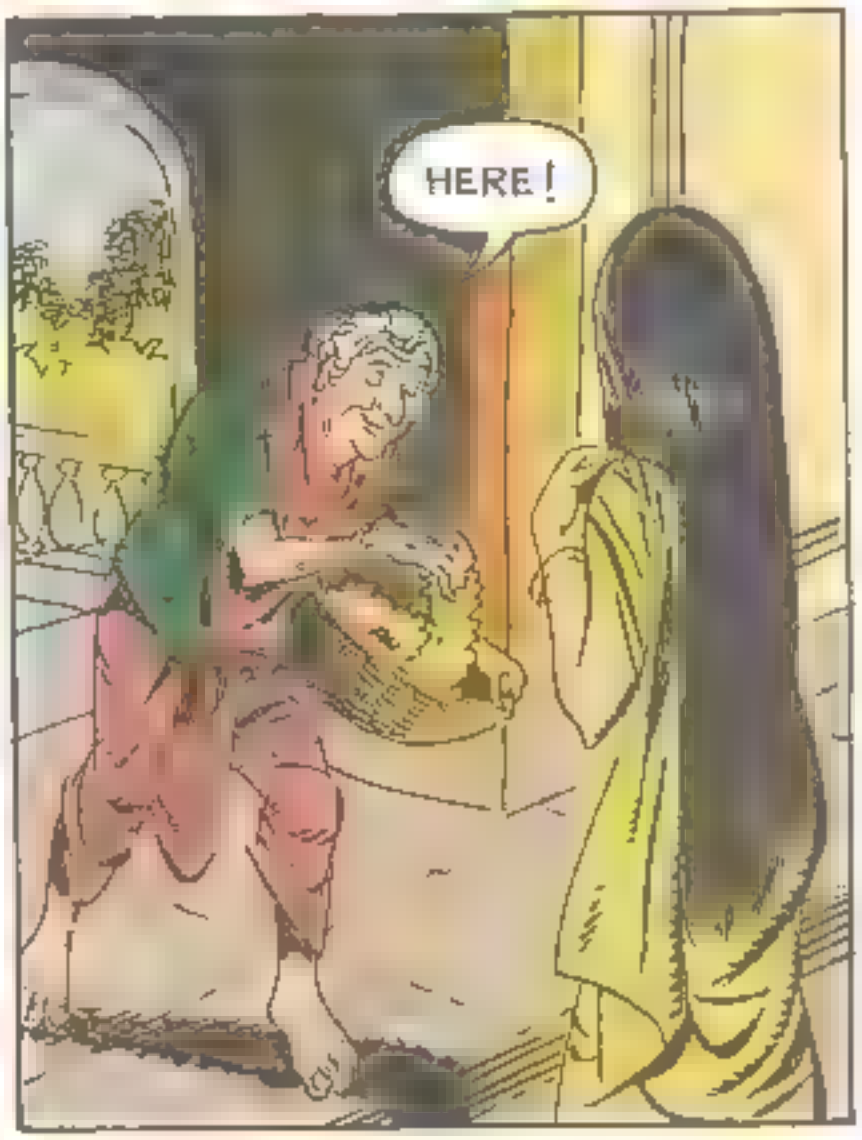

DON'T GET ANGRY, SON. SHE DESERVES OUR SYMPATHY. SHE HAS ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO HER
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

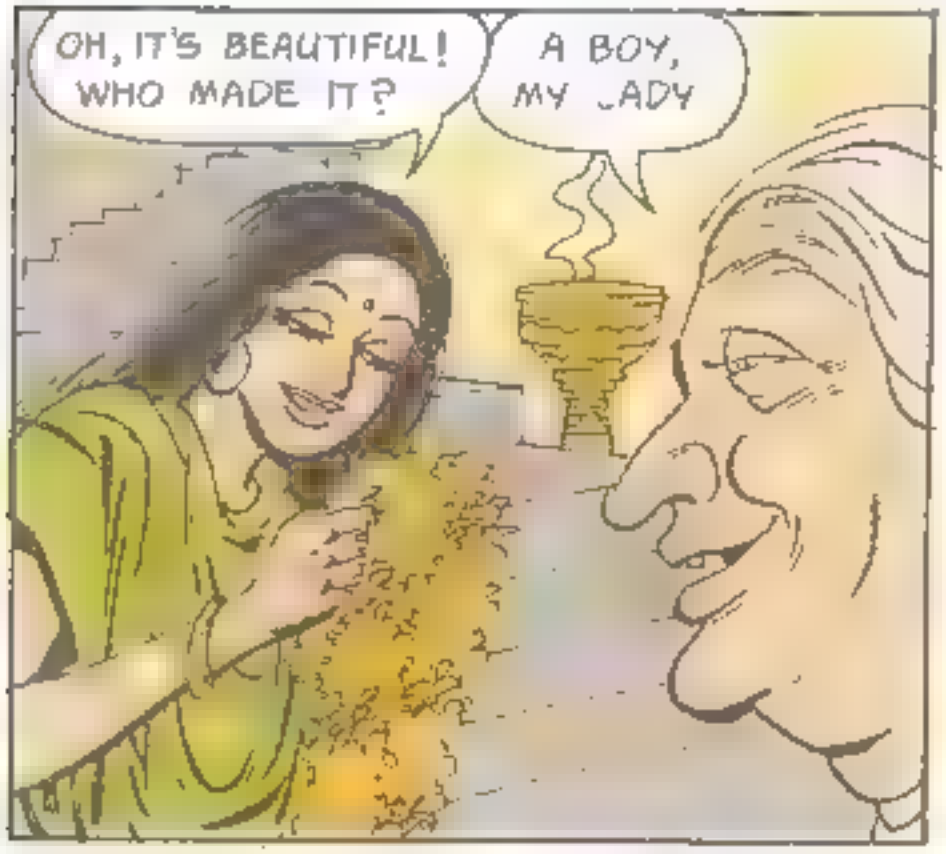

WHEN THE MAGICIAN BROUGHT HER HERE, SHE REFUSED TO MARRY HIM.

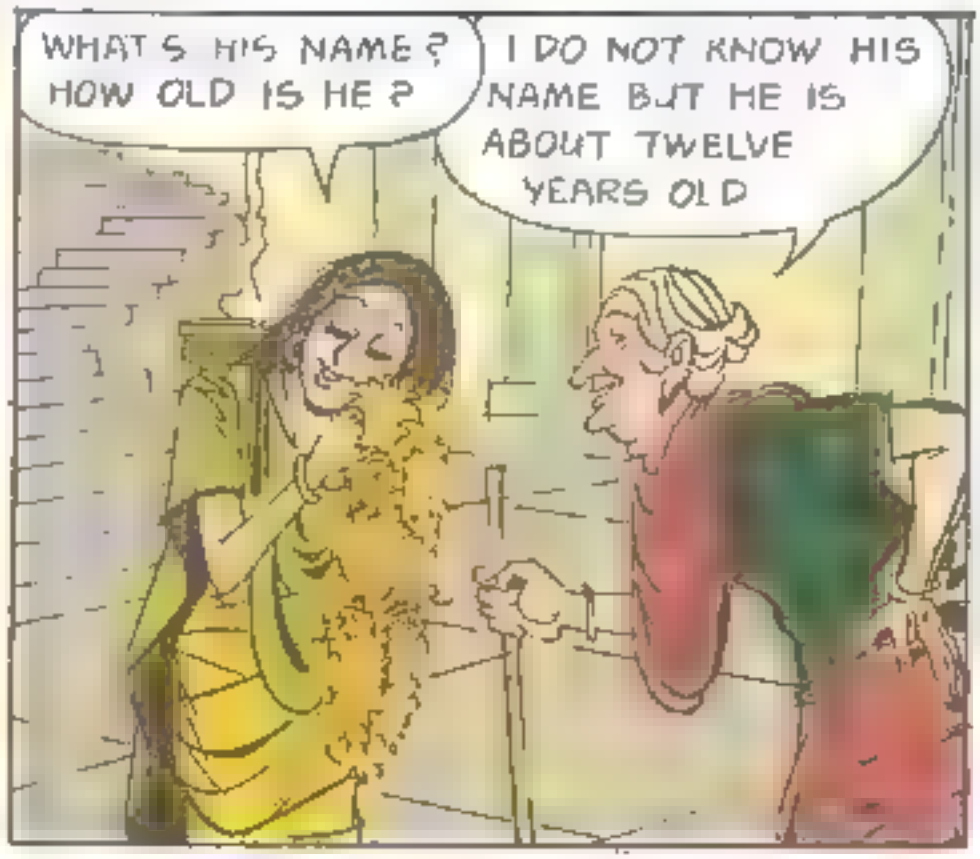

BUT WHEN SHE REALISED THAT HE WOULD MARRY HER BY FORCE SHE AGREED TO MARRY HIM — AFTER TWELVE YEARS.

THE TWELVE YEARS ARE ALMOST UP. ONLY A FEW DAYS ARE LEFT.
THEN MUST HURRY


WHEN THE OLD WOMAN WENT TO THE FORTRESS THE NEXT MORNING, TO HER SURPRISE BALA NAGAMMA WAS EAGERLY WAITING FOR HER!
HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME A GARLAND?
OF COURSE, MY LADY!


HERE!

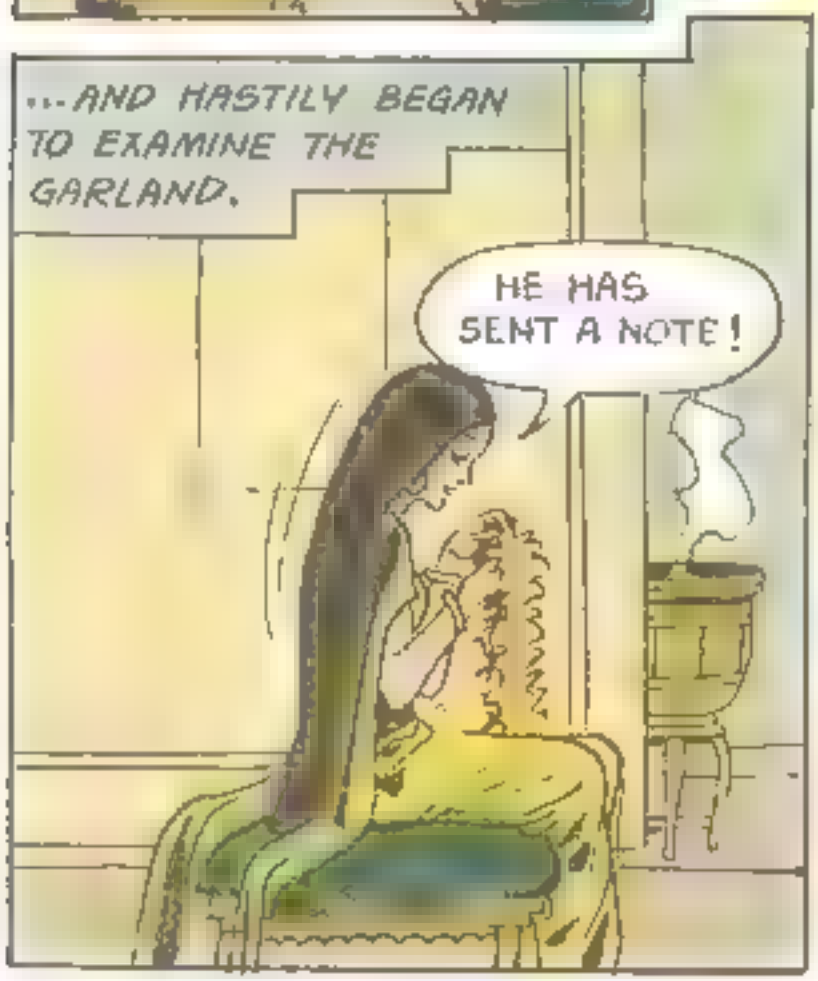

OH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL! WHO MADE IT?
A BOY, MY LADY

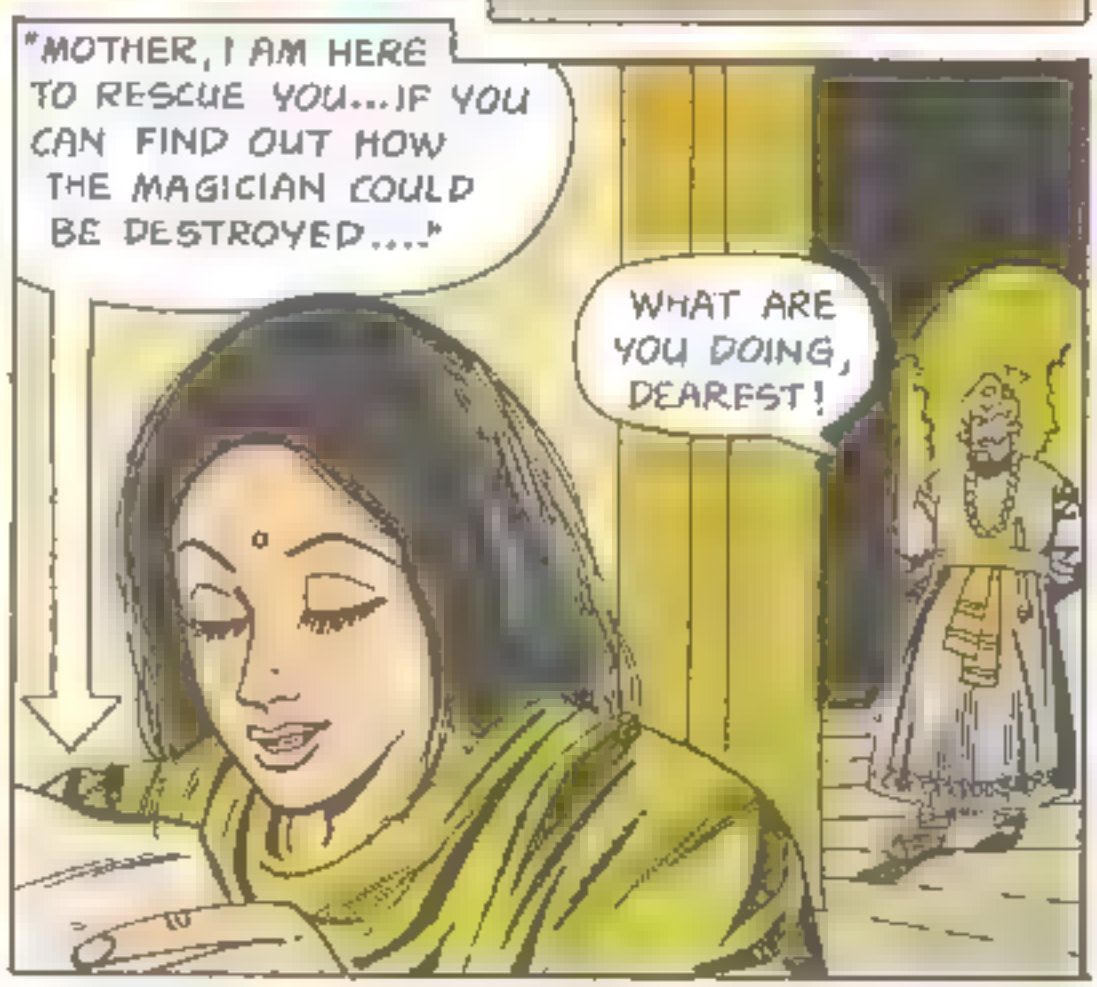

WHAT'S HIS NAME? HOW OLD IS HE?
I DO NOT KNOW HIS NAME BUT HE IS ABOUT TWELVE YEARS OLD

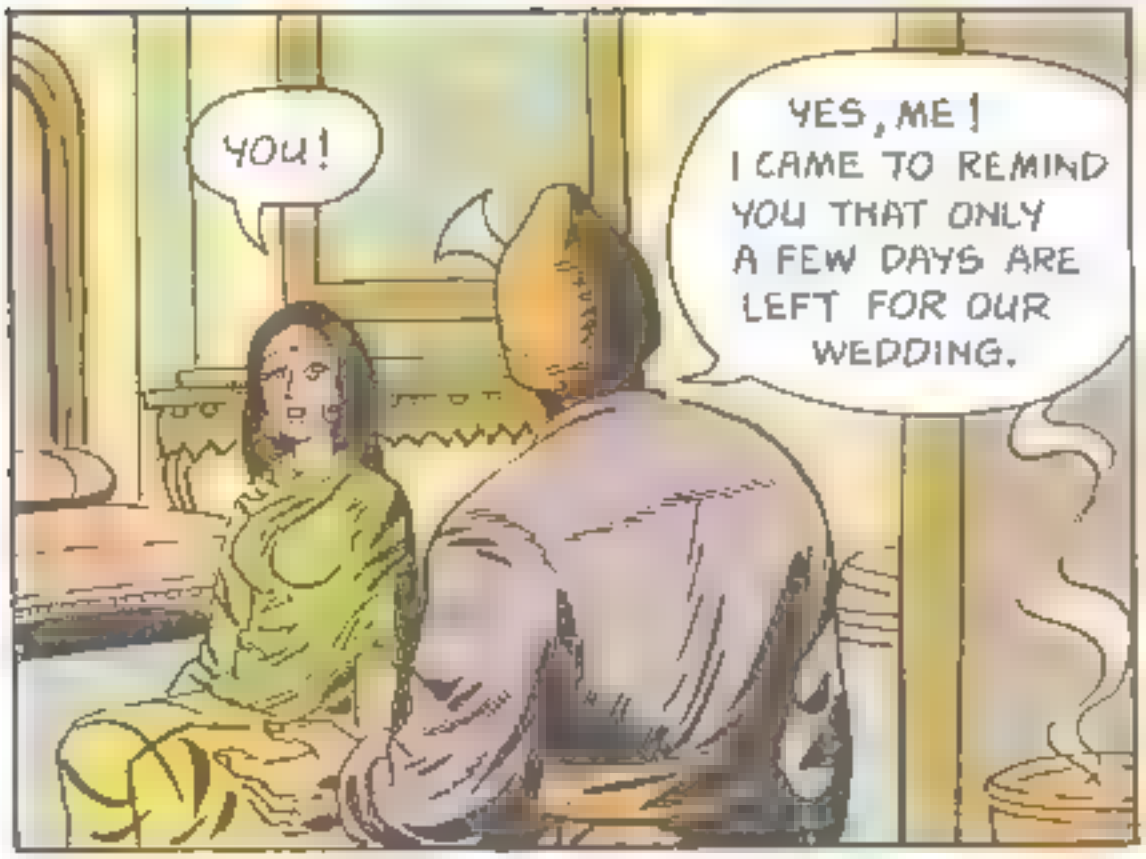
WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE? IS HE TALL?
YES, TALL, STRONG AND HANDSOME.

THANK YOU, YOU MAY GO!
WHAT HAS COME OVER HER TODAY?

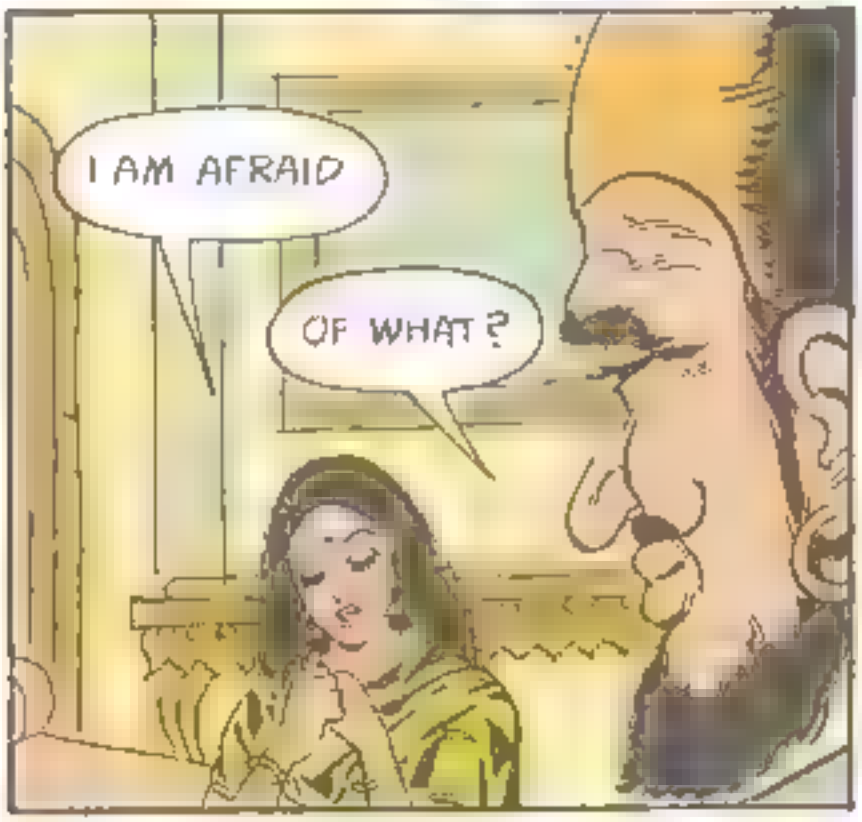
LEAVING THE OLD WOMAN GAPING, BALA NAGAMMA RUSHED TO AN INNER CHAMBER...


...AND HASTILY BEGAN TO EXAMINE THE GARLAND.
HE HAS SENT A NOTE!


"MOTHER, I AM HERE TO RESCUE YOU...IF YOU CAN FIND OUT HOW THE MAGICIAN COULD BE DESTROYED...."
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DEAREST!


YOU!
YES, ME! I CAME TO REMIND YOU THAT ONLY A FEW DAYS ARE LEFT FOR OUR WEDDING.

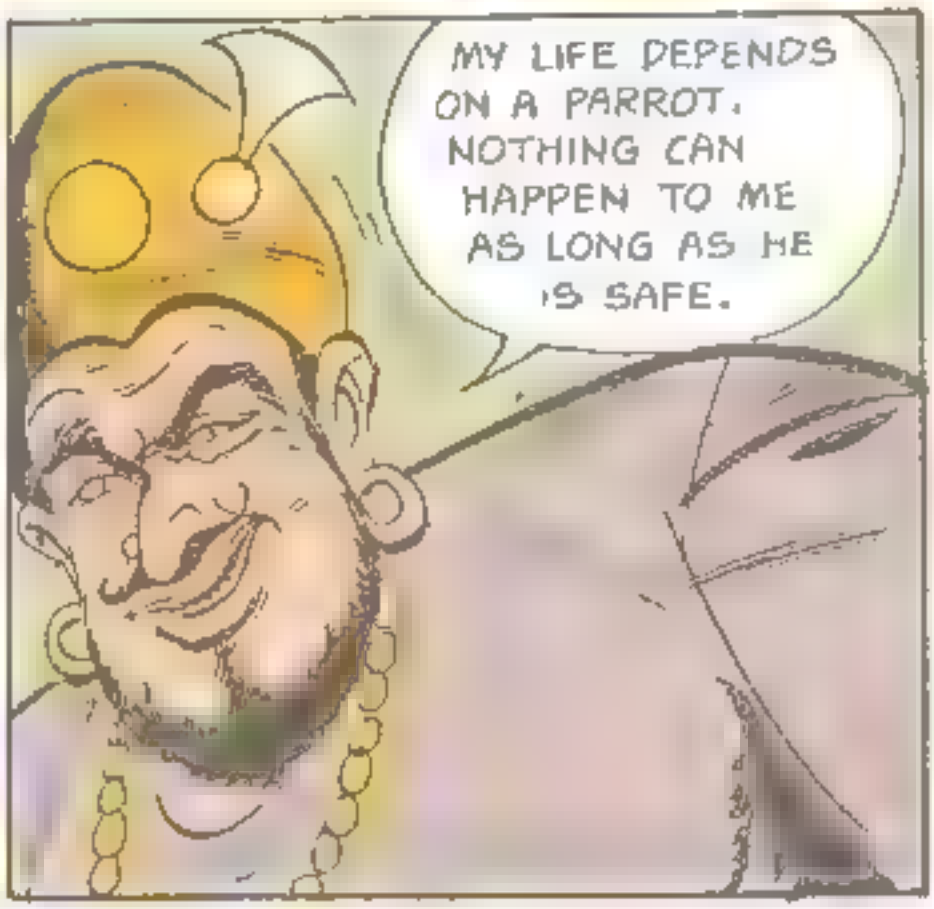
I MUST FIND OUT HOW HE CAN BE DESTROYED.

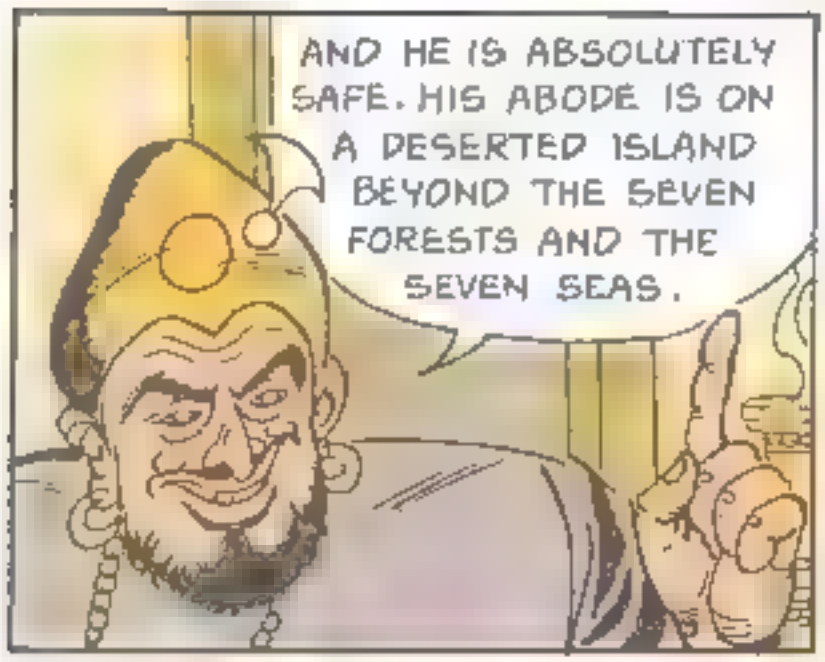

I AM AFRAID
OF WHAT?

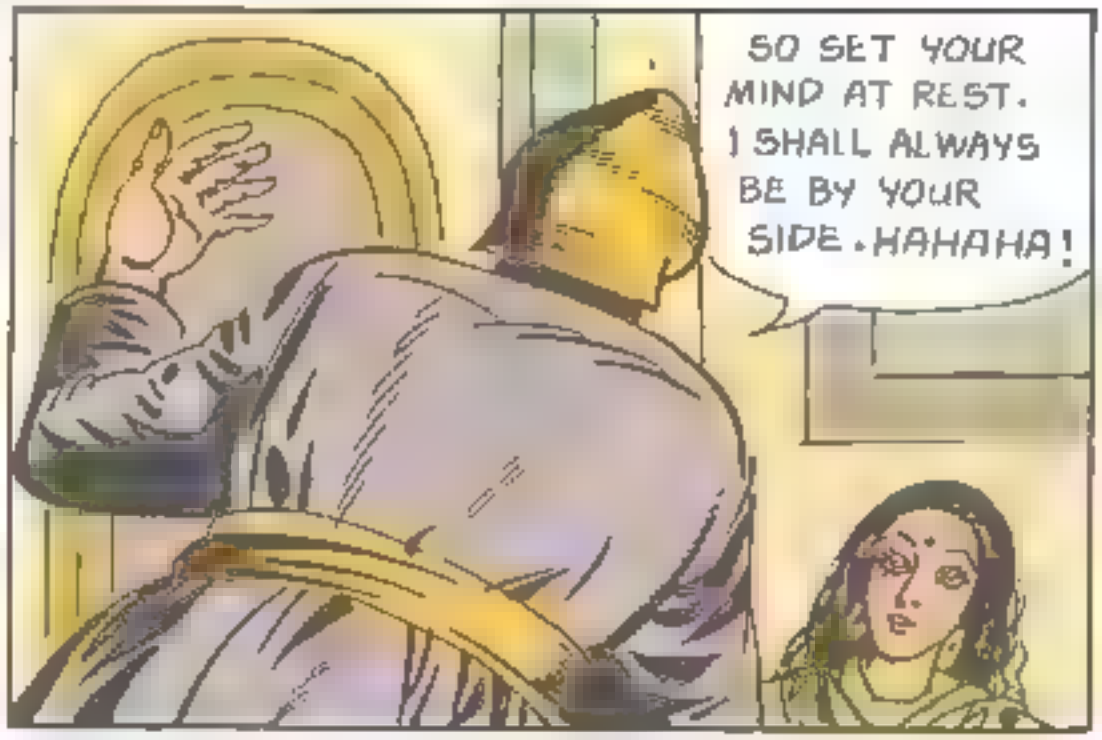
YOU TOOK MY HUSBAND AWAY FROM ME. WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES AND TAKES YOU AWAY TOO?

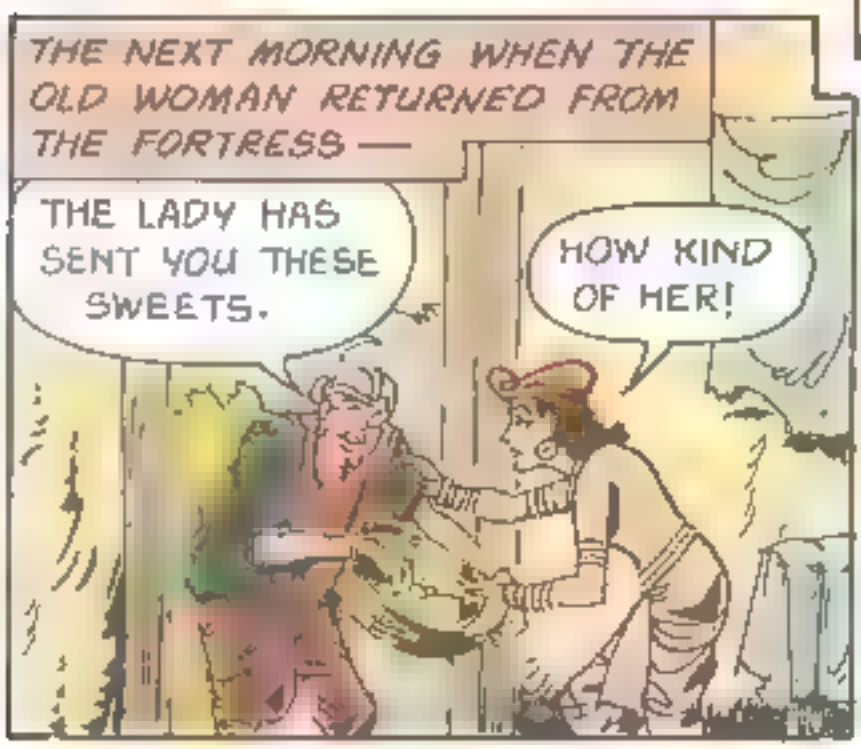
YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT ME? HAHAHA!

NO ONE CAN HURT ME!
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE? PLEASE TELL ME, SO THAT I MAY HAVE PEACE OF MIND


MY LIFE DEPENDS ON A PARROT. NOTHING CAN HAPPEN TO ME AS LONG AS HE IS SAFE.


AND HE IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE. HIS ABODE IS ON A DESERTED ISLAND BEYOND THE SEVEN FORESTS AND THE SEVEN SEAS.


SO SET YOUR MIND AT REST. I SHALL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE. HAHAHA!


THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE OLD WOMAN RETURNED FROM THE FORTRESS —
THE LADY HAS SENT YOU THESE SWEETS.
HOW KIND OF HER!

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME VERY FOND OF YOU
THERE MUST BE A MESSAGE INSIDE

YES, HERE IT IS!

"HE IS SAFE AS LONG AS THE PARROT WHO DWELLS ON THE ISLAND BEYOND THE SEVEN FORESTS AND THE SEVEN SEAS, IS SAFE..."

BE CAREFUL, MY SON...

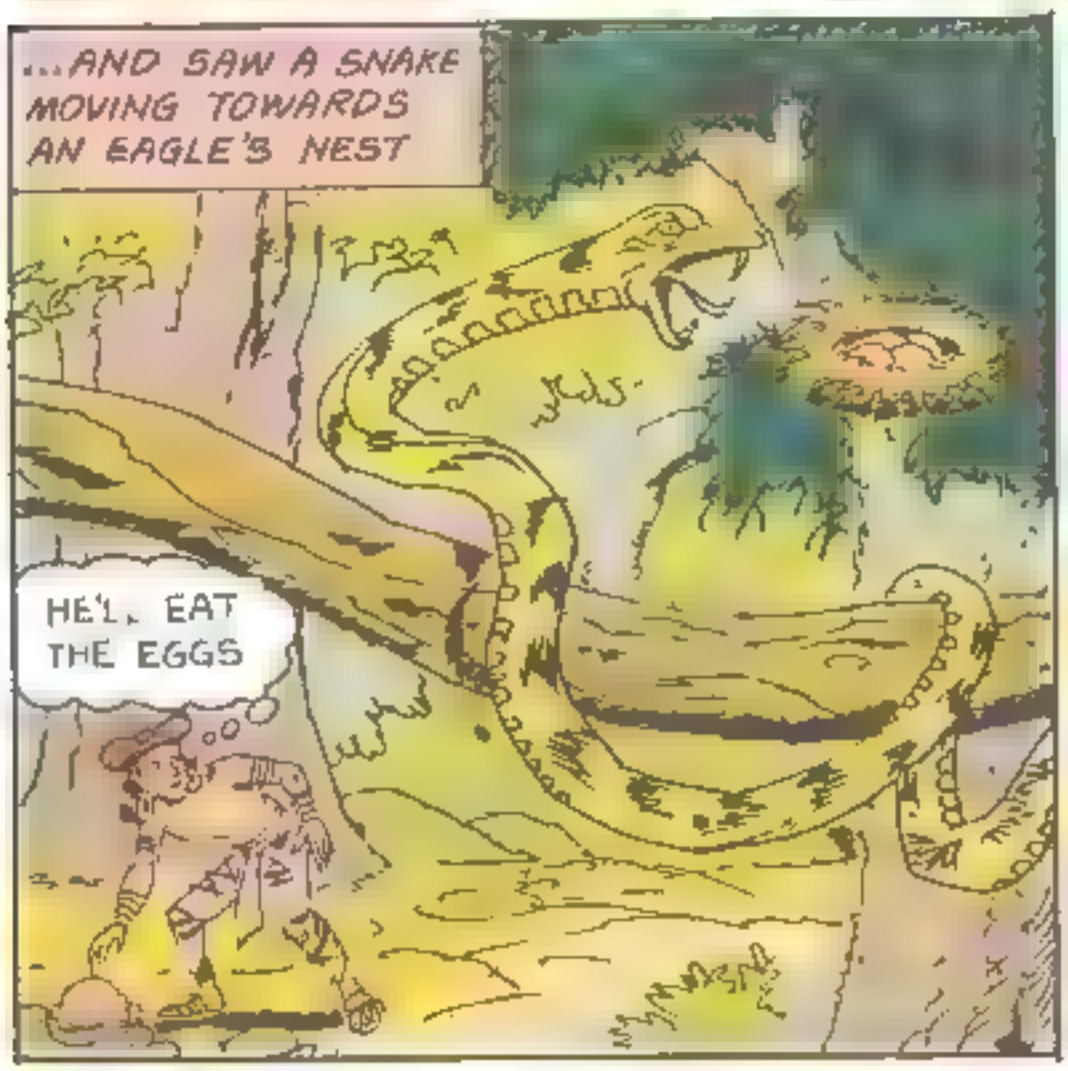
GRANDMA, I AM GOING!
WHERE?

TO CATCH A PARROT!
?

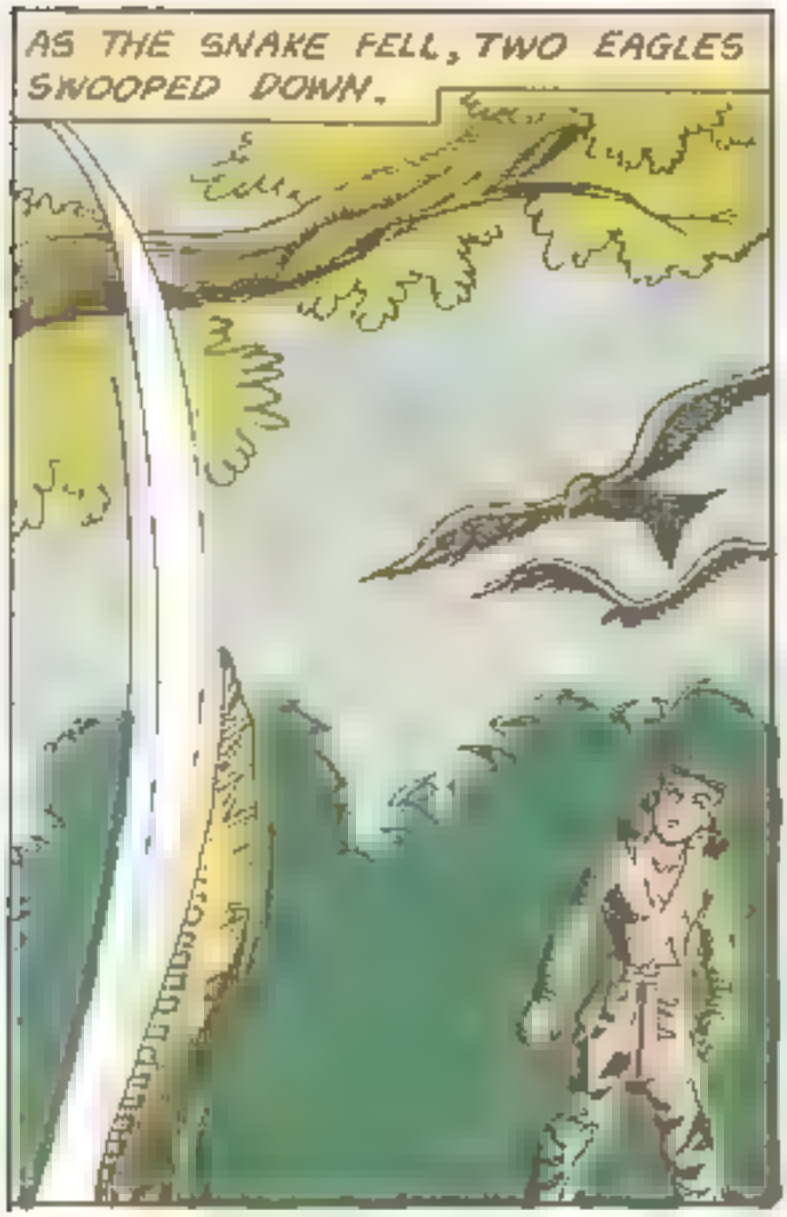
IT'LL TAKE ME MONTHS TO CROSS THE SEVEN FORESTS AND THE SEVEN SEAS

..AND MY MOTHER HAS ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

JUST THEN HE HAPPENED TO LOOK UP ..

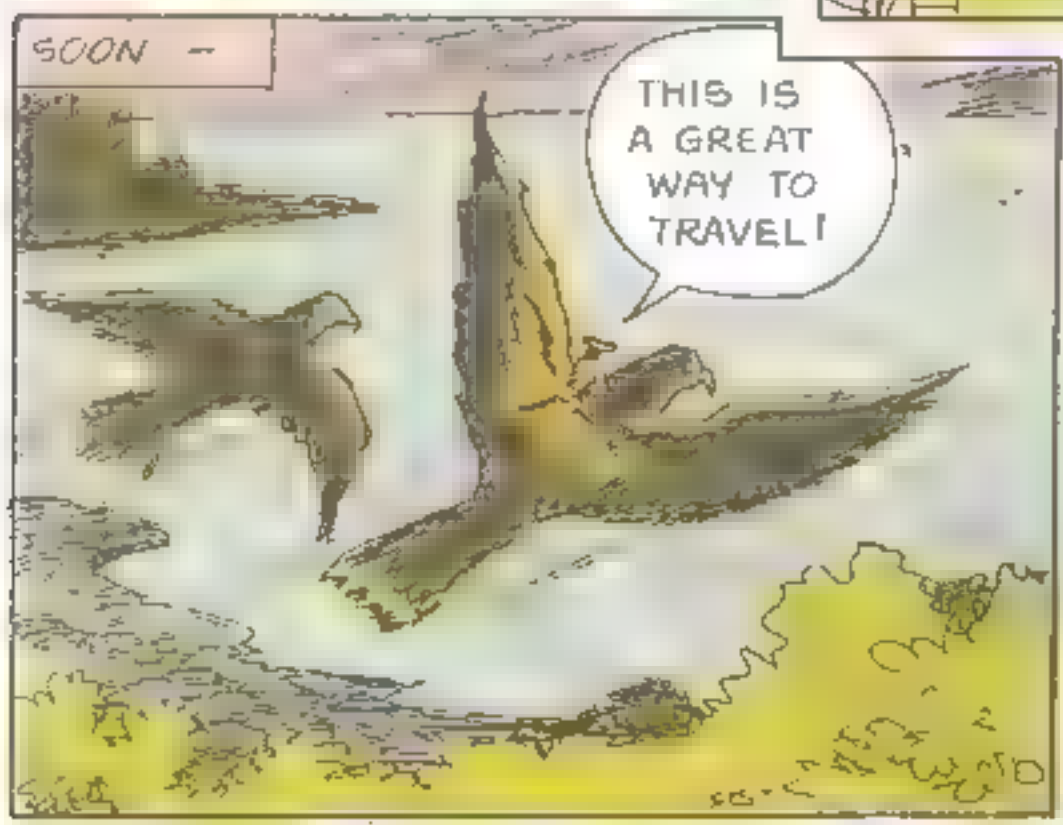

...AND SAW A SNAKE MOVING TOWARDS AN EAGLE'S NEST
HE'LL EAT THE EGGS

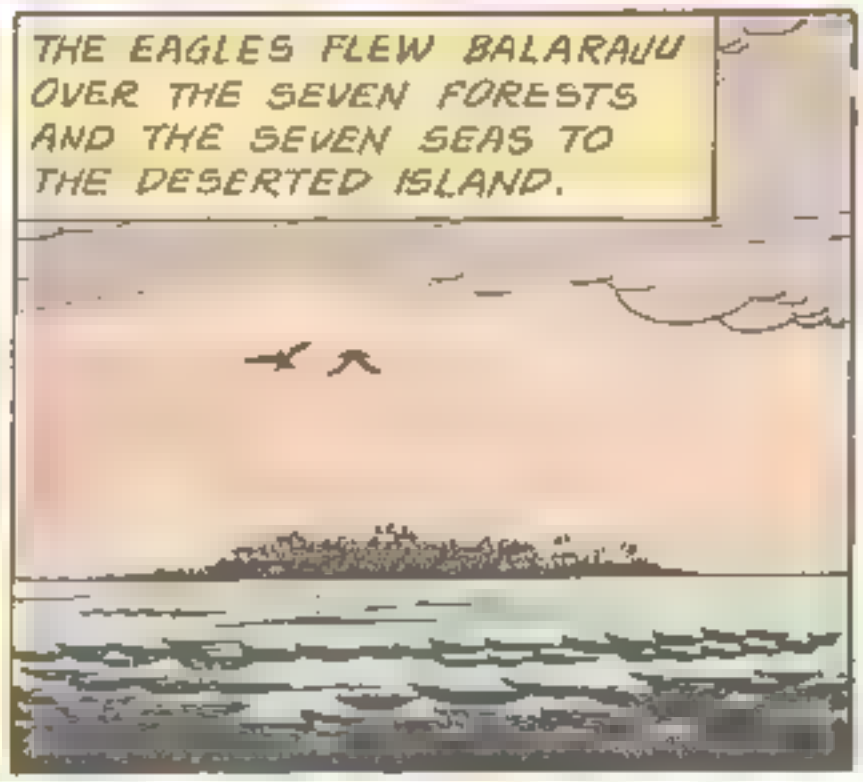
THUD

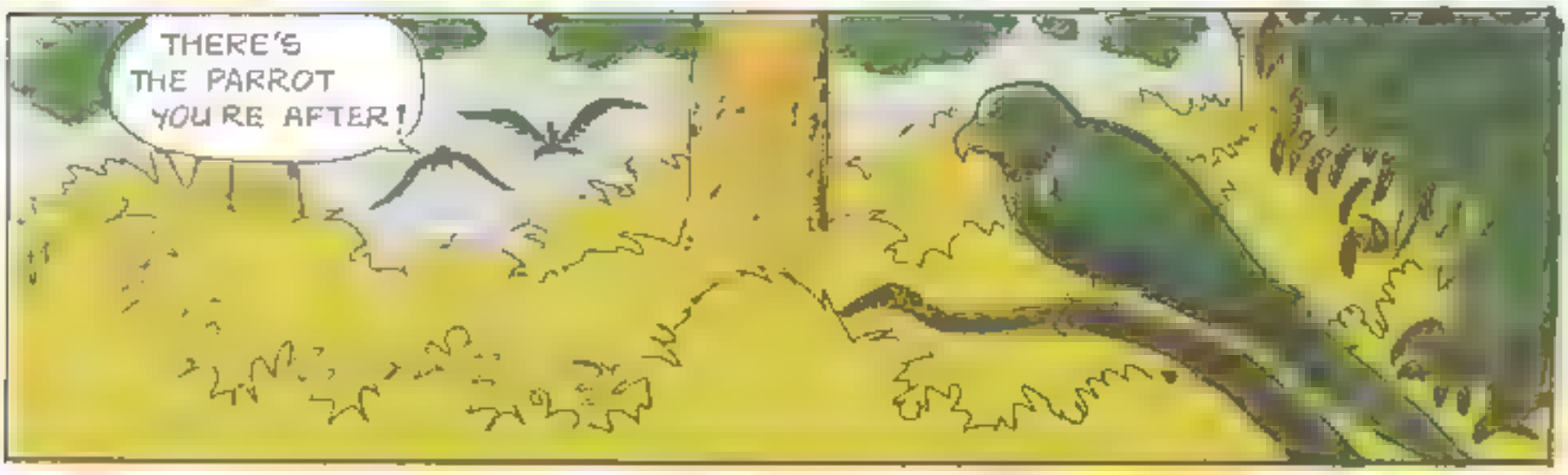

AS THE SNAKE FELL, TWO EAGLES SWOOPED DOWN.

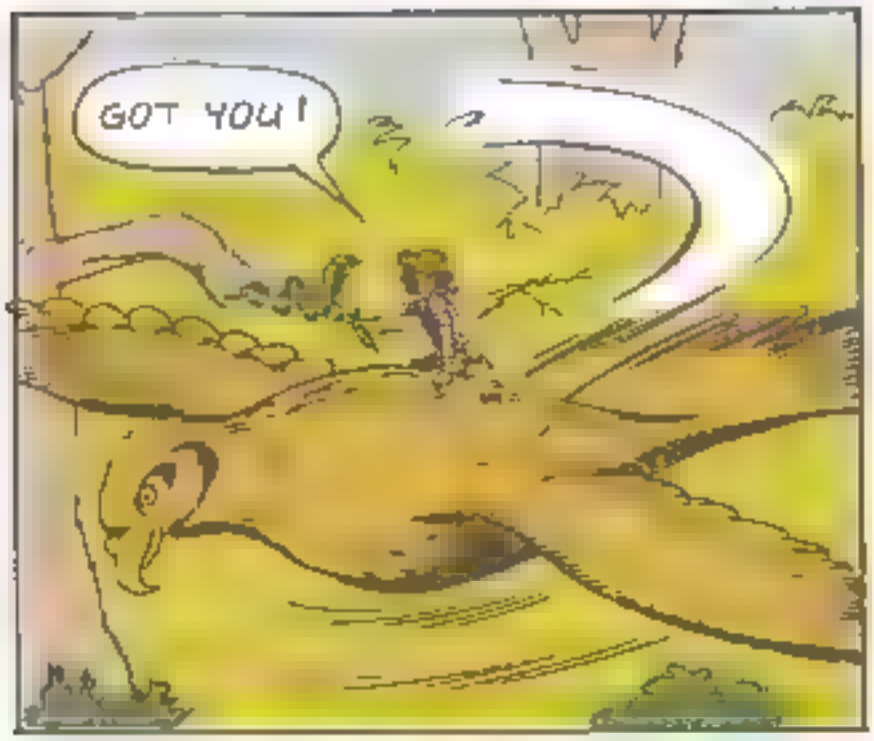
WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED. BUT FOR YOU, THE SNAKE WOULD HAVE EATEN OUR EGGS.

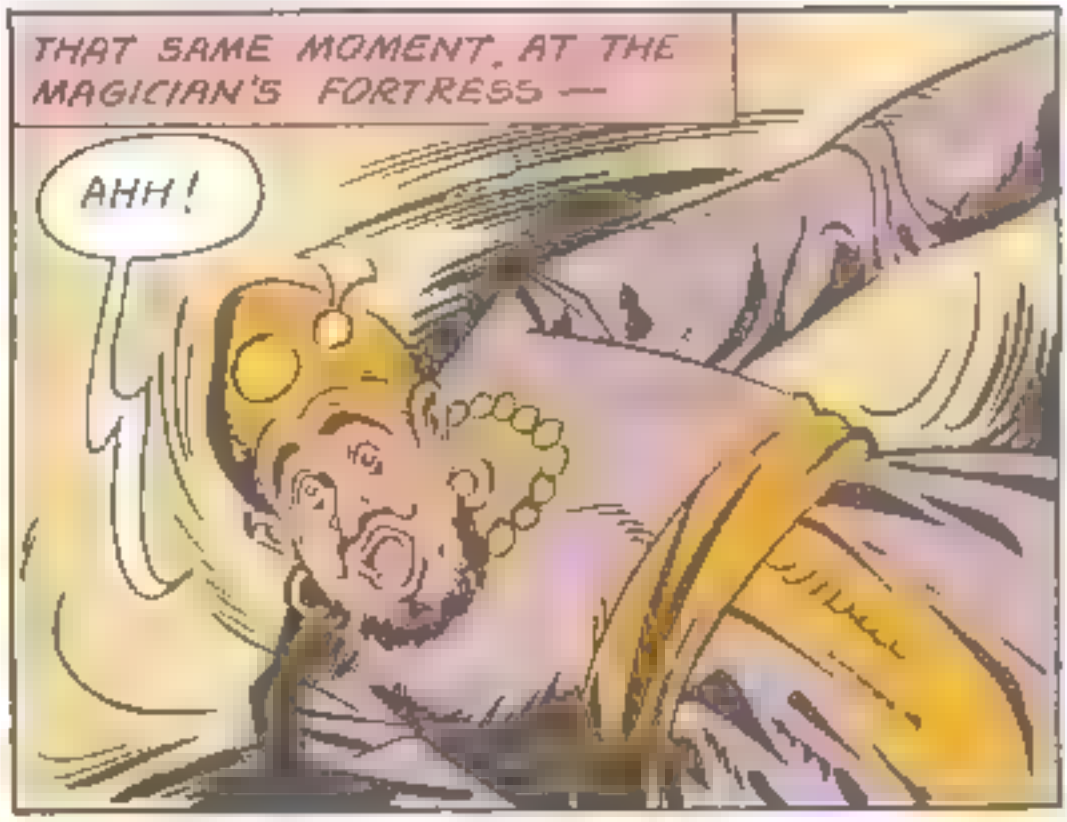
S THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO FOR YOU ?
THERE CERTAINLY IS!

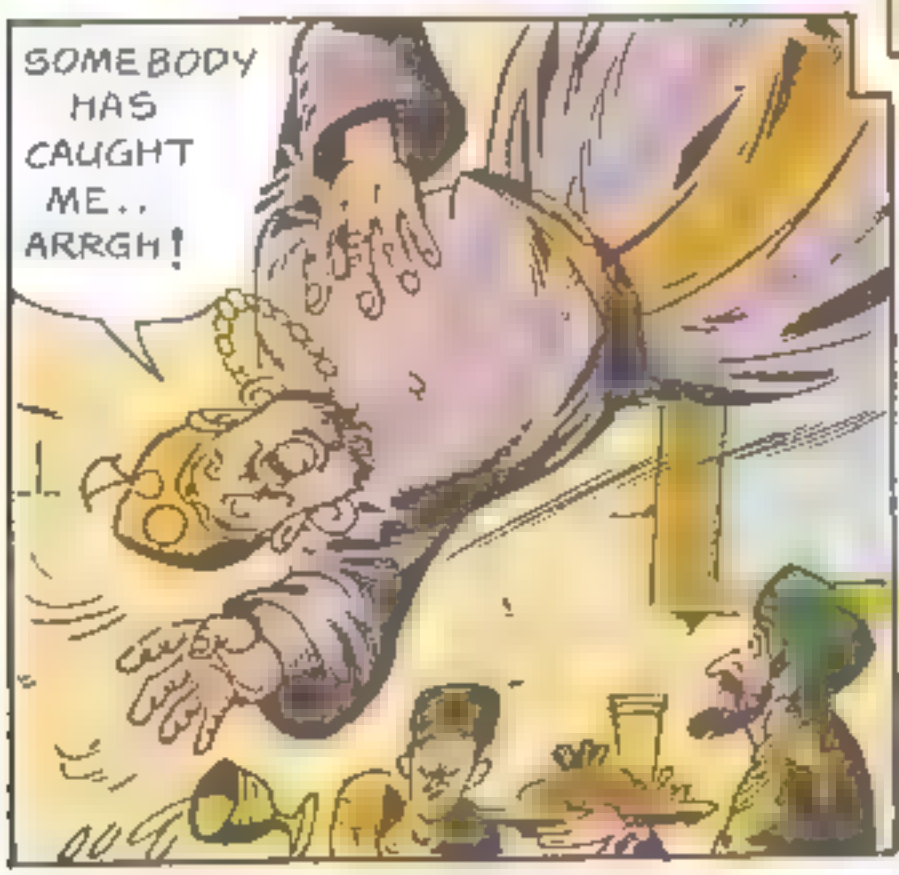

SOON –
THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO TRAVEL!


THE EAGLES FLEW BALARAJU OVER THE SEVEN FORESTS AND THE SEVEN SEAS TO THE DESERTED ISLAND.

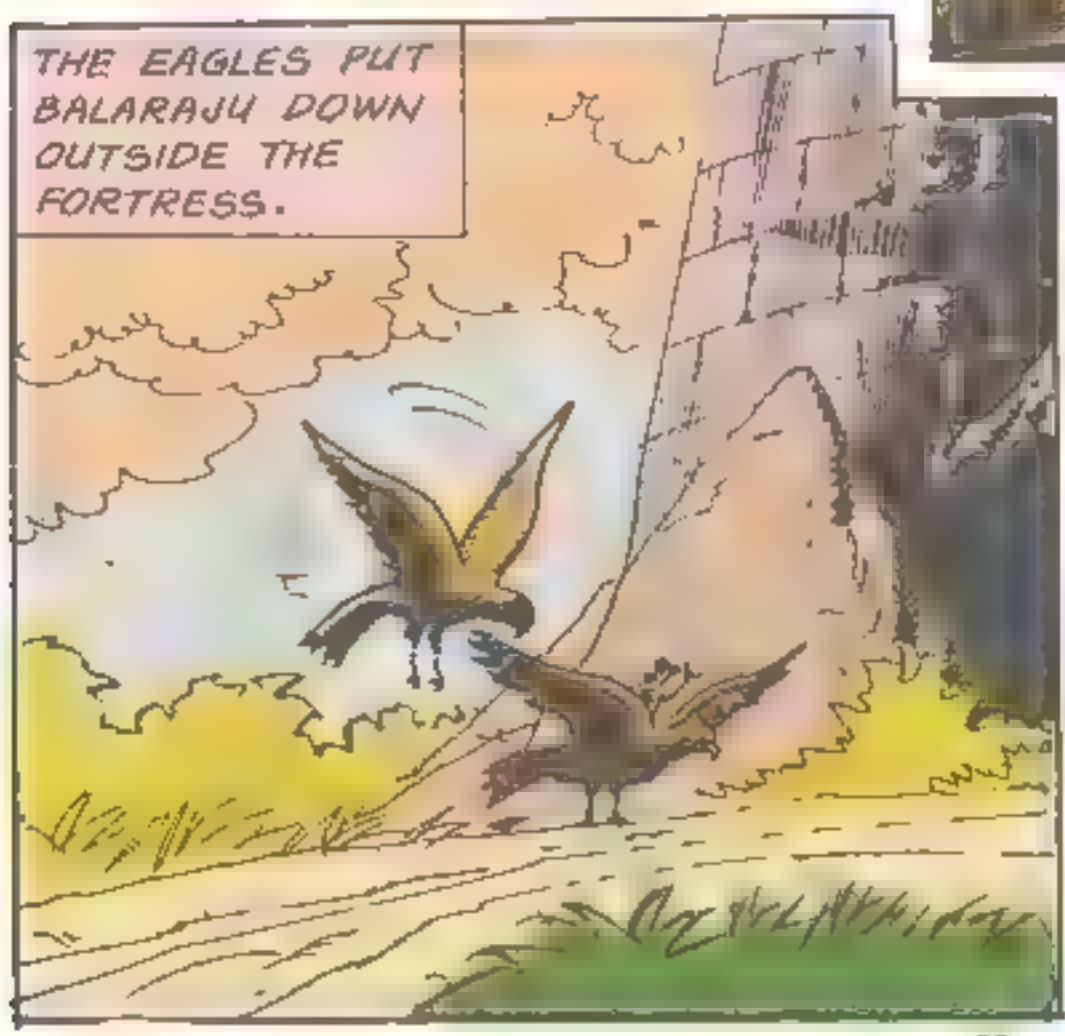

THERE'S THE PARROT YOU RE AFTER!


GOT YOU!

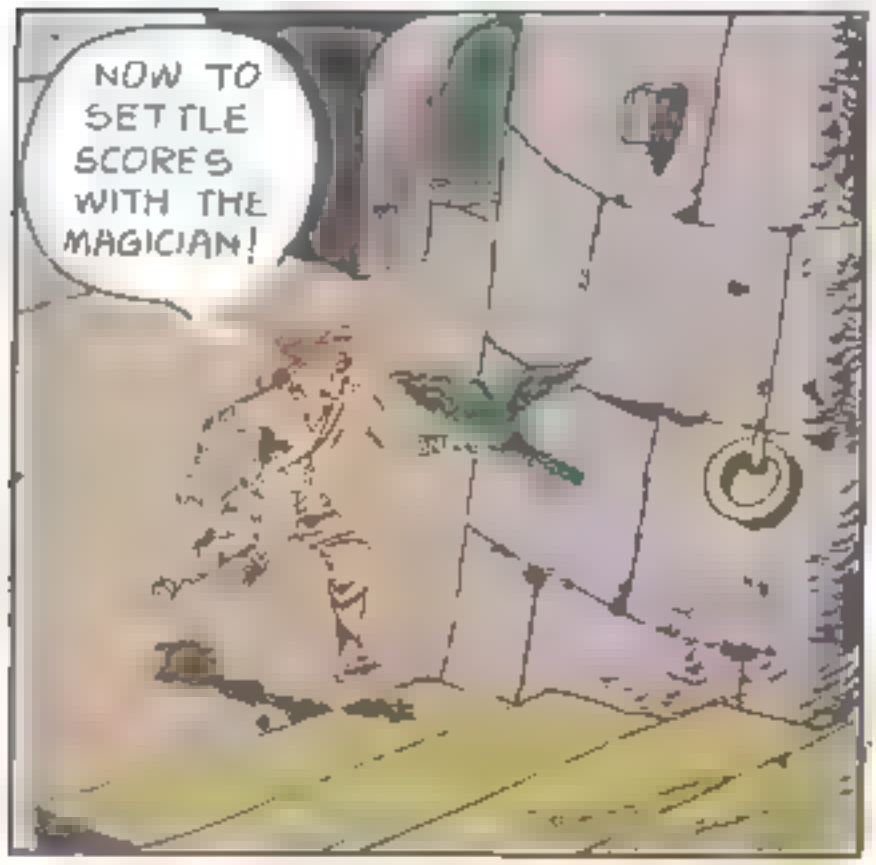

THAT SAME MOMENT, AT THE MAGICIAN'S FORTRESS —
AHH!

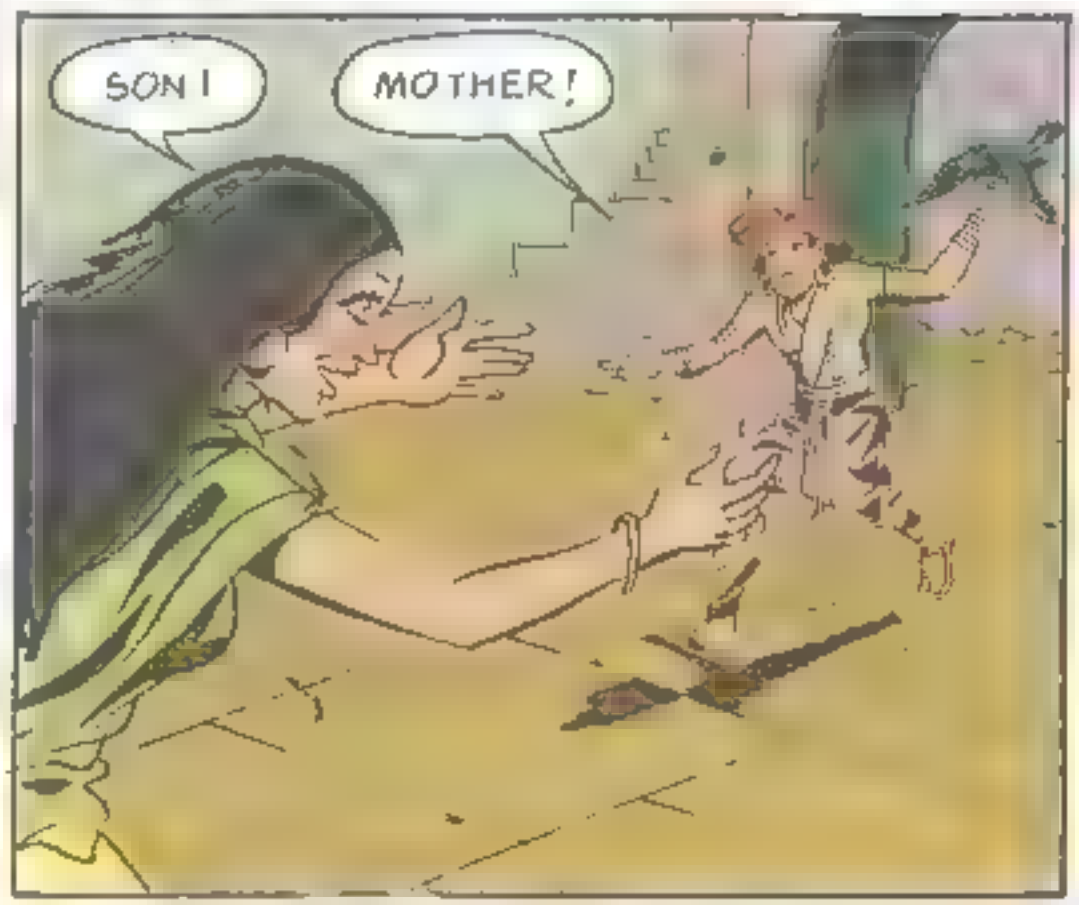

SOMEBODY HAS CAUGHT ME.. ARRGH!

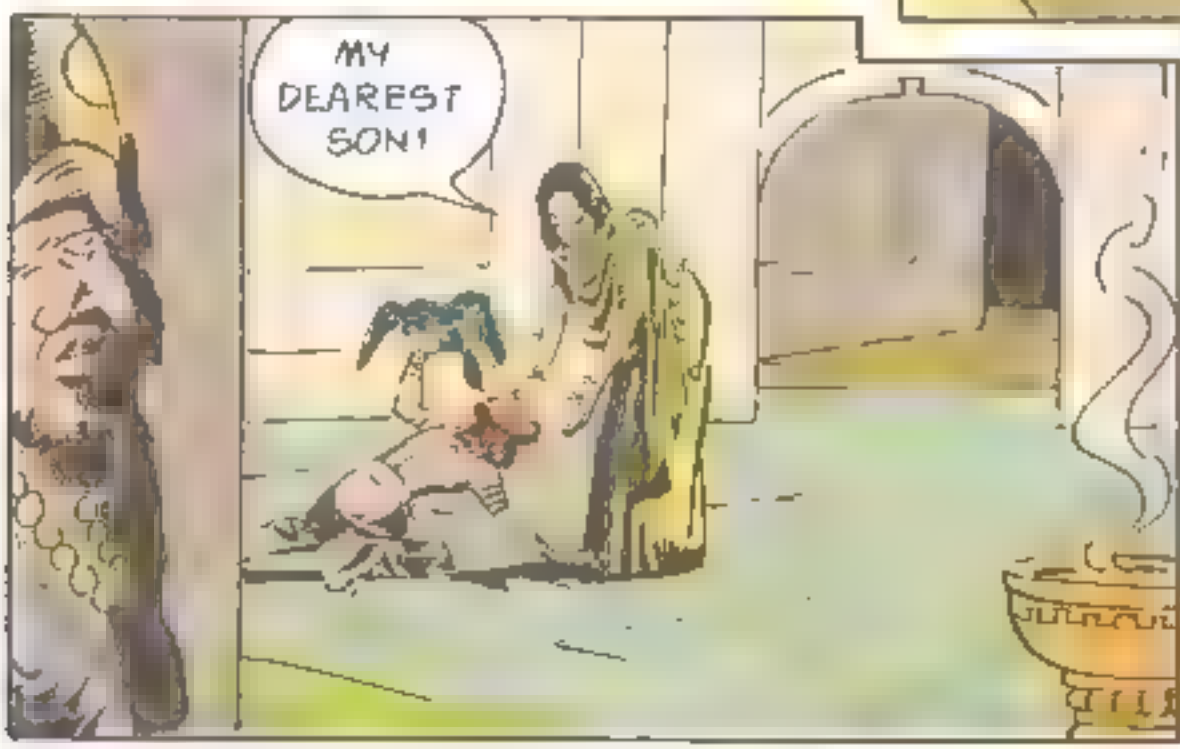
STOP STRUGGLING! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!


THE EAGLES PUT BALARAJU DOWN OUTSIDE THE FORTRESS.

GOODBYE... AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

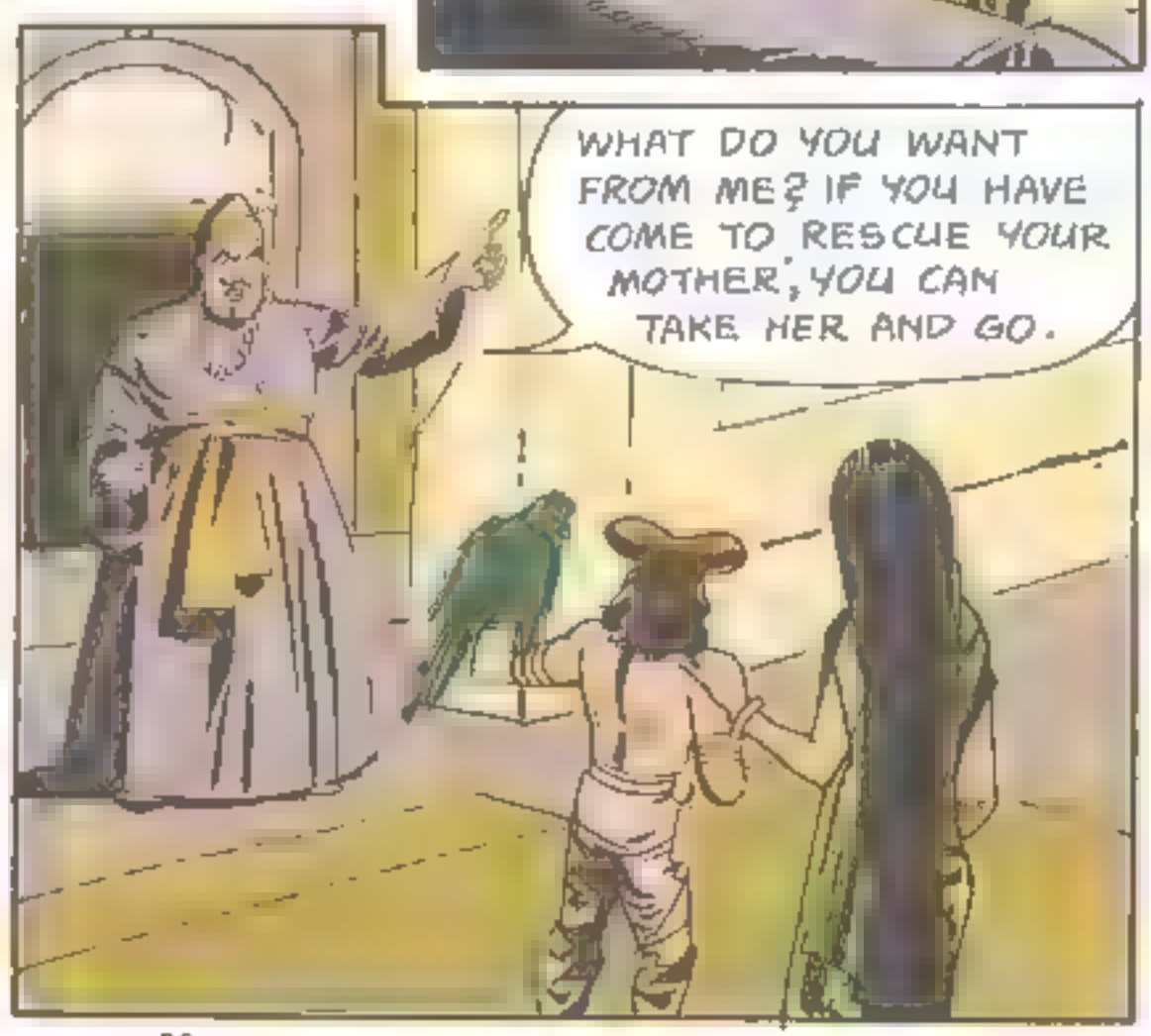

NOW TO SETTLE SCORES WITH THE MAGICIAN!

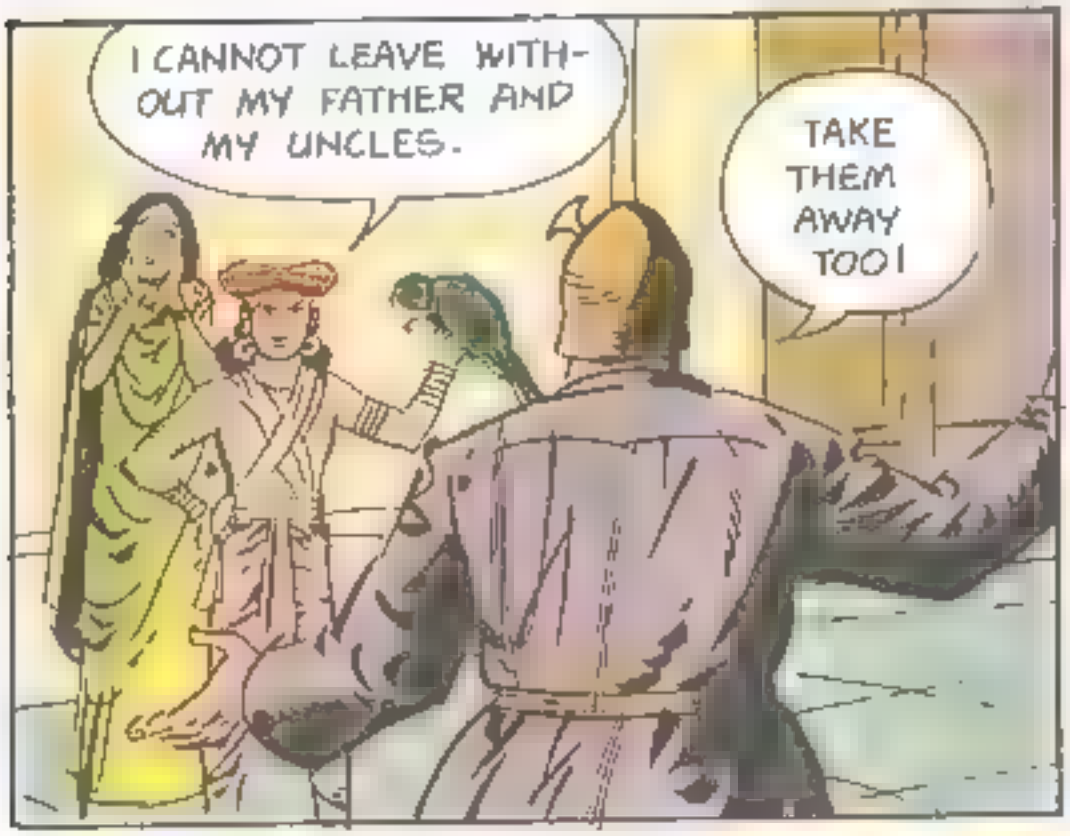

SON!
MOTHER!

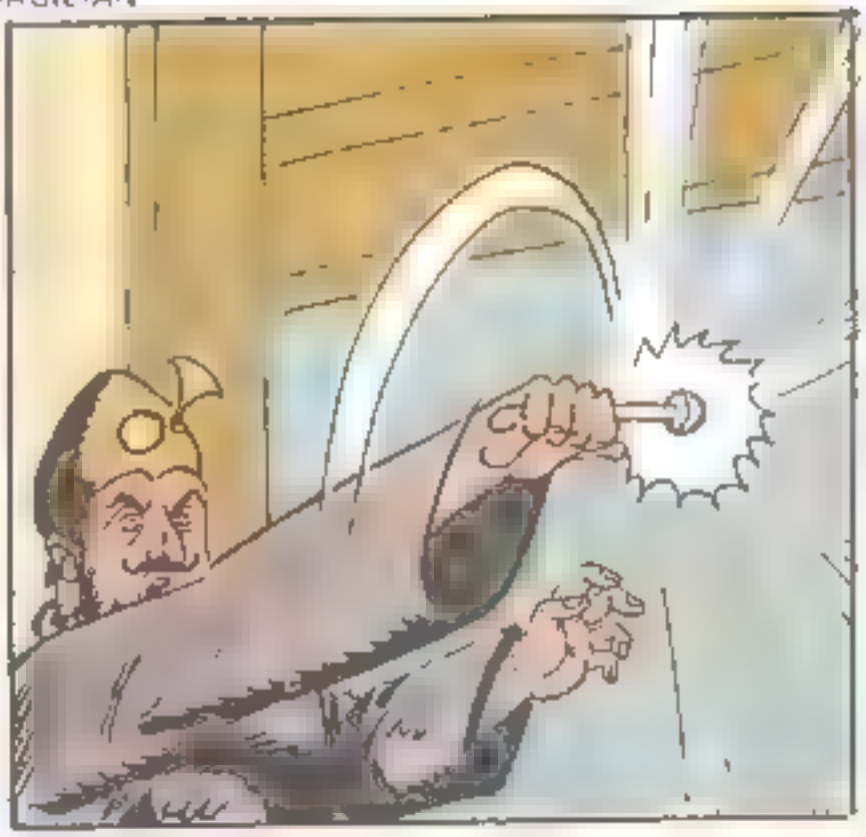

MY DEAREST SON!

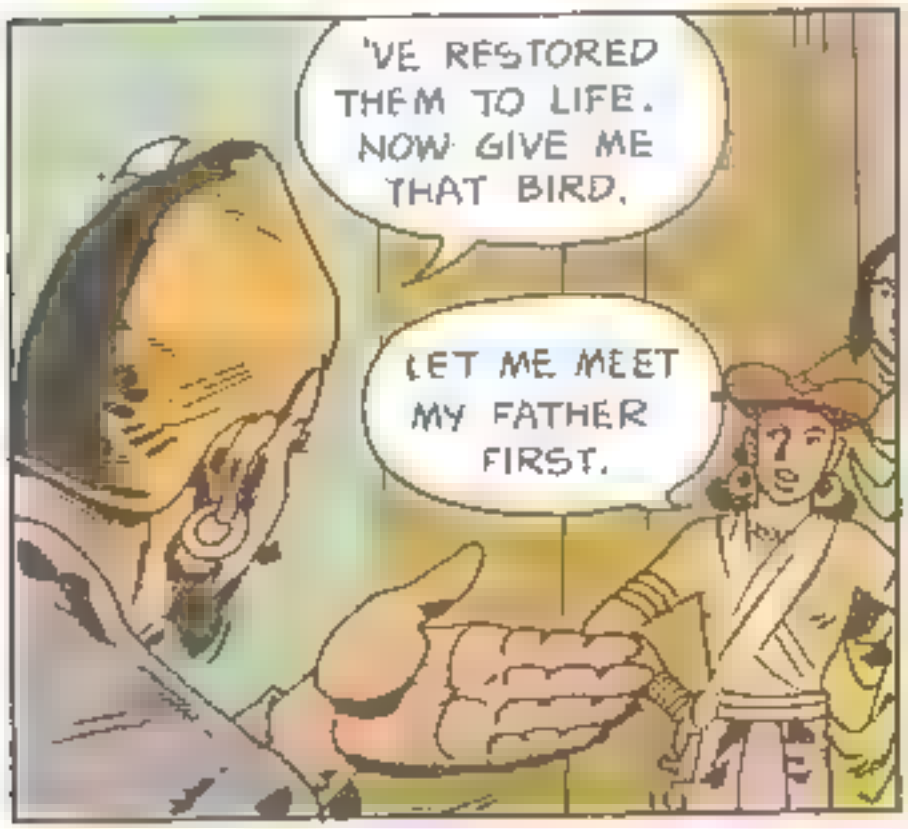
RELEASE THAT PARROT OR I SHALL TURN YOU INTO A STONE.

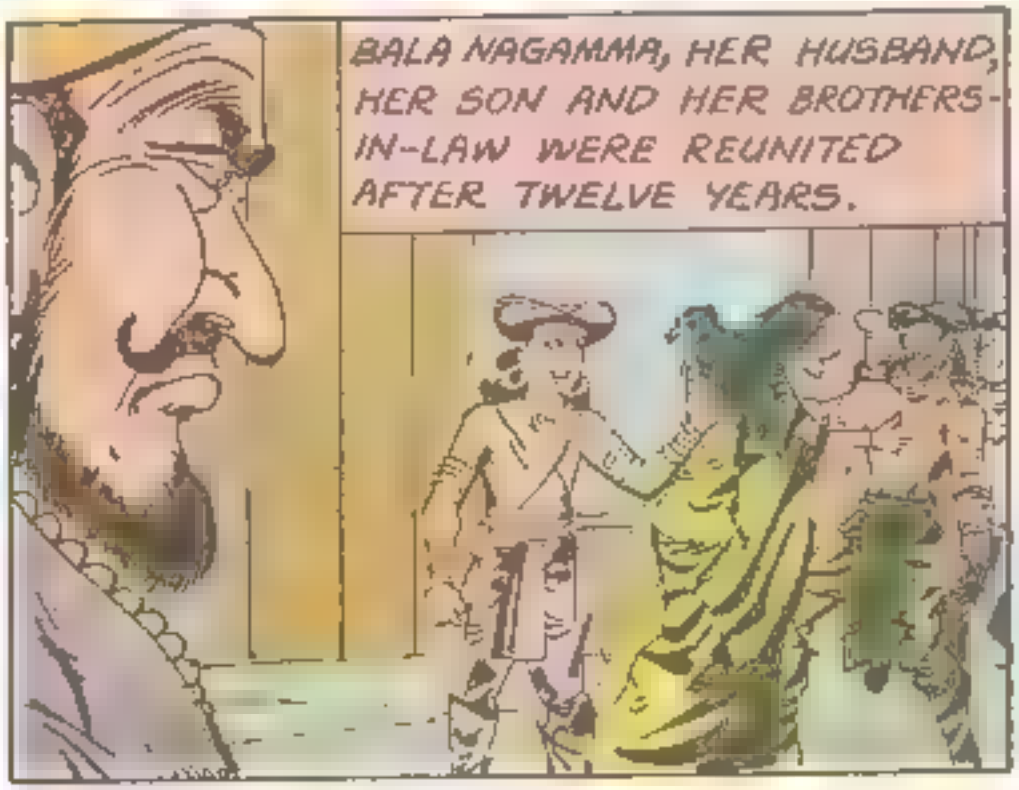
IF YOU DO THAT THE BIRD WILL BE CRUSHED BETWEEN MY STONY FINGERS.

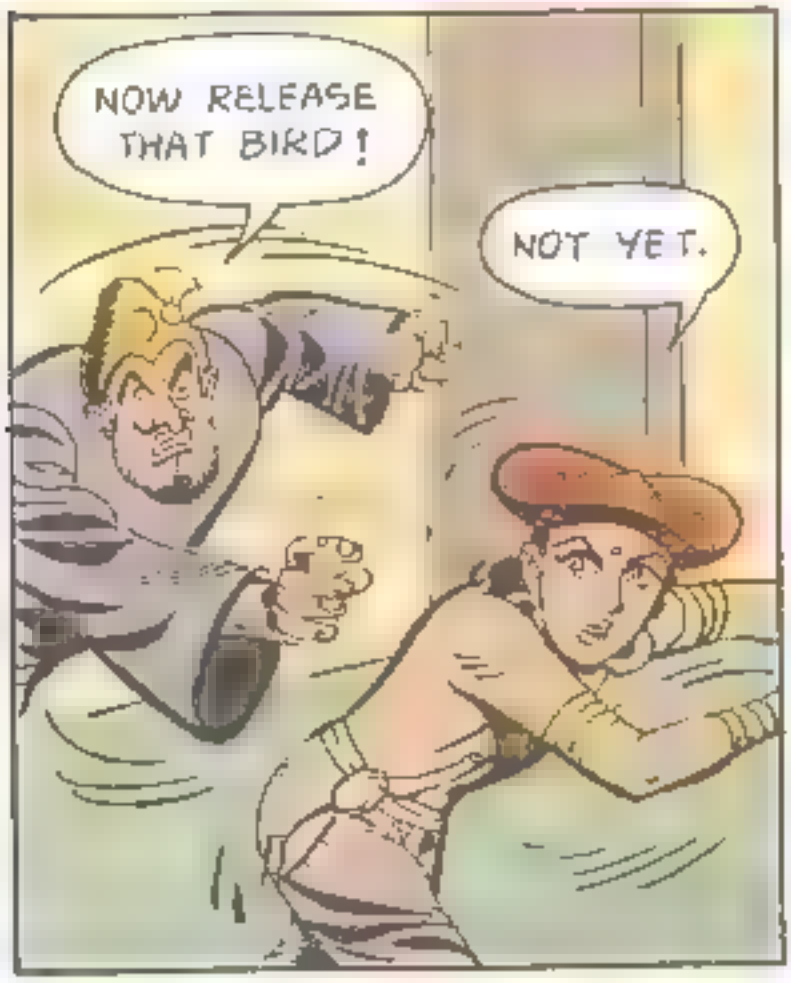

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? IF YOU HAVE COME TO RESCUE YOUR MOTHER, YOU CAN TAKE HER AND GO.

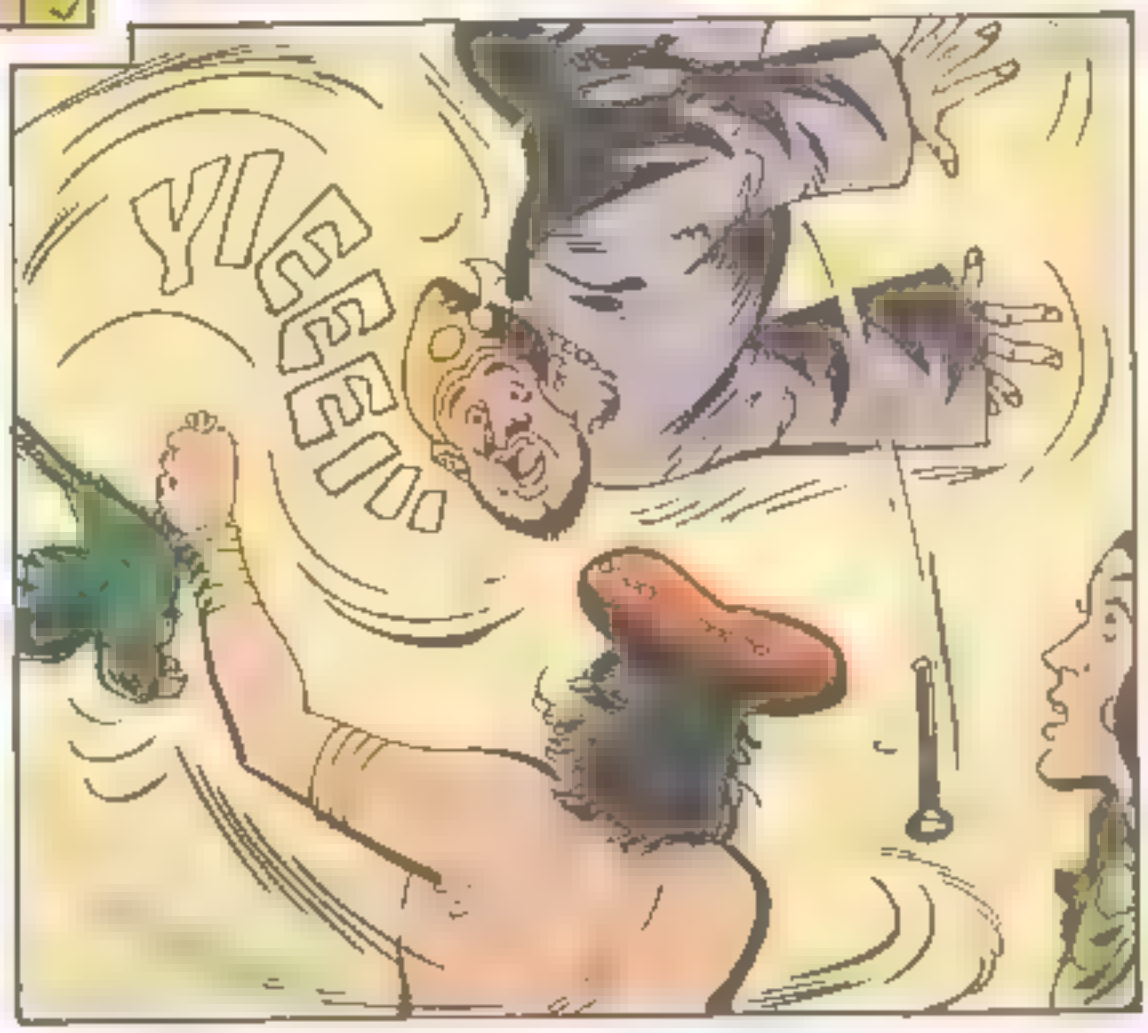

I CANNOT LEAVE WITHOUT MY FATHER AND MY UNCLES.
TAKE THEM AWAY TOO!

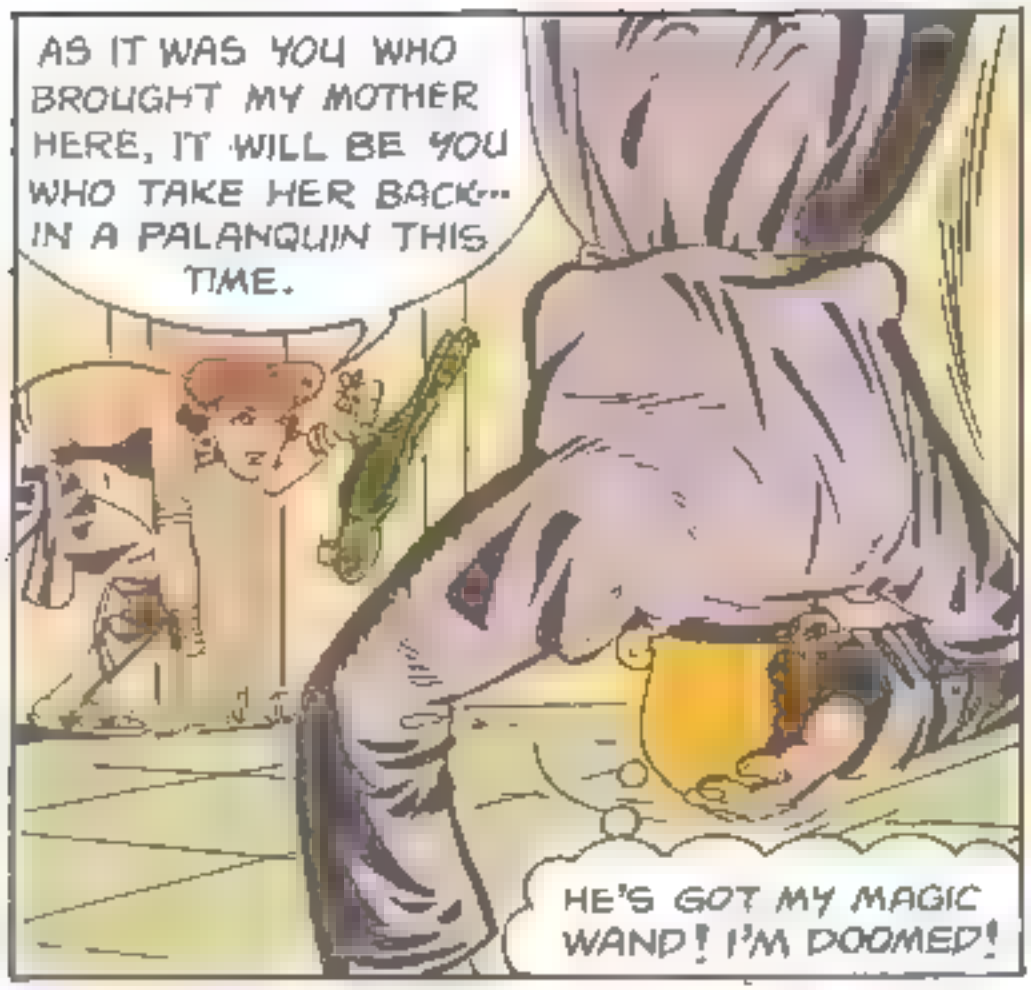



'VE RESTORED THEM TO LIFE. NOW GIVE ME THAT BIRD.
LET ME MEET MY FATHER FIRST.

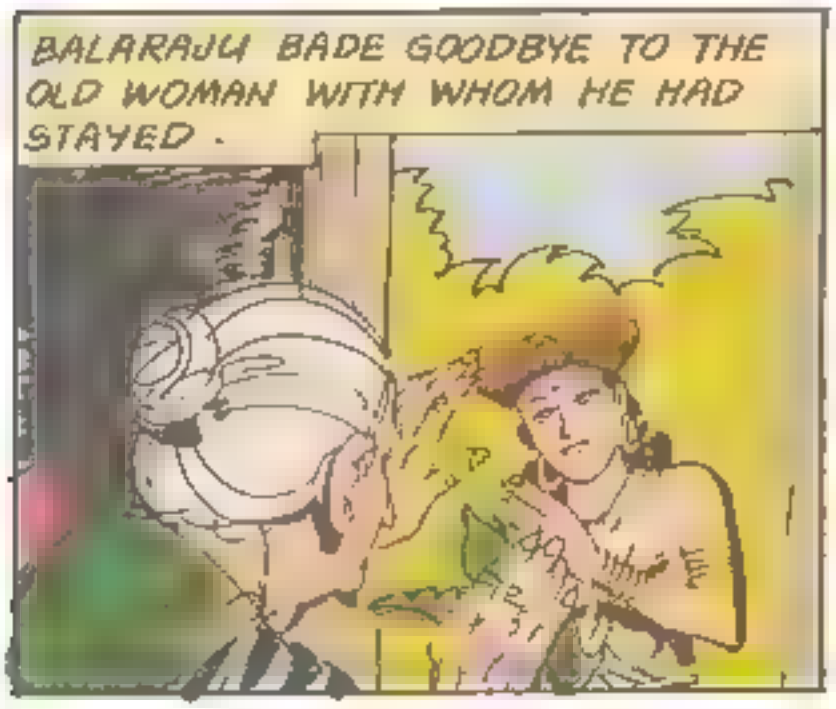

BALA NAGAMMA, HER HUSBAND, HER SON AND HER BROTHERS-IN-LAW WERE REUNITED AFTER TWELVE YEARS.

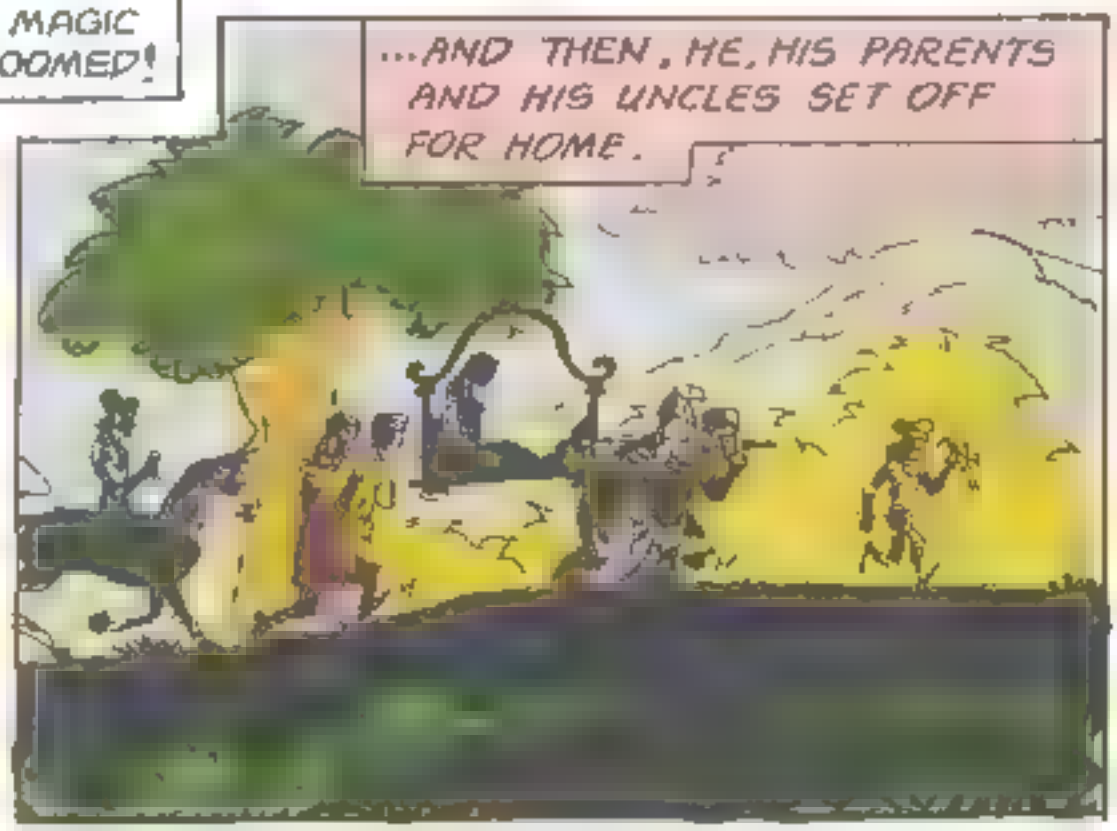

NOW RELEASE THAT BIRD!
NOT YET.


YIEEEE

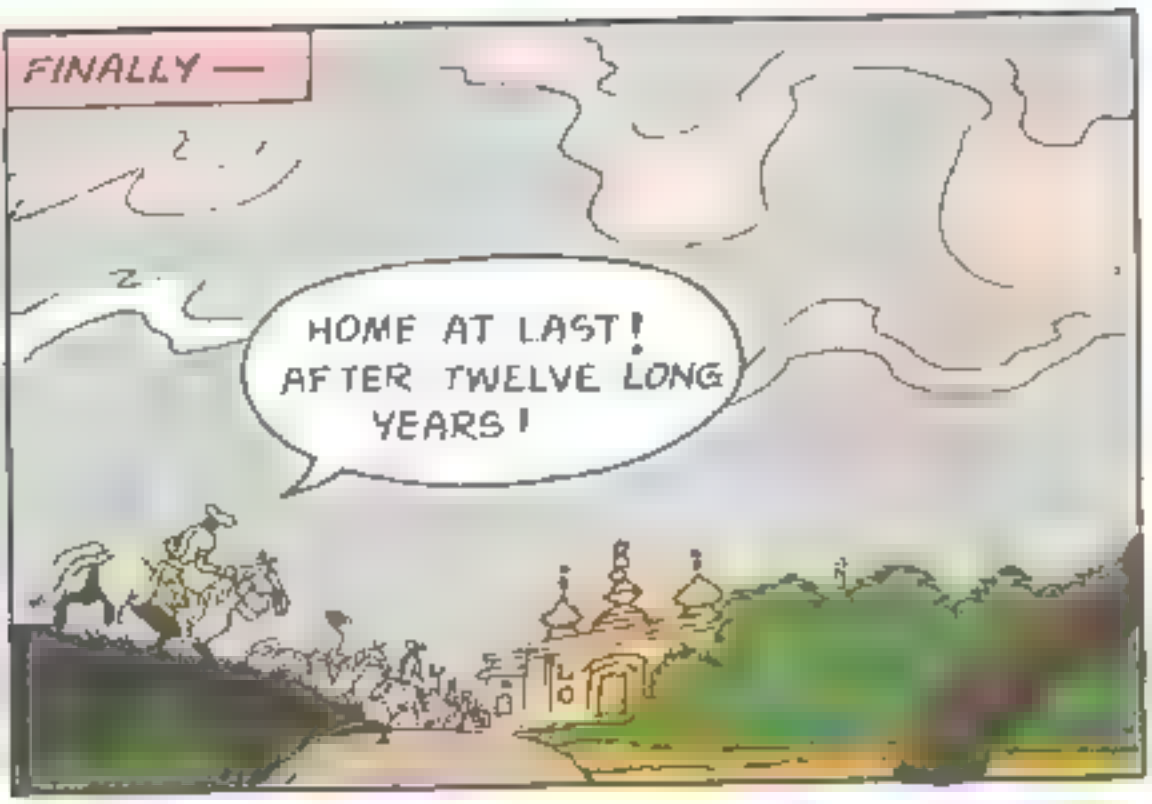

AS IT WAS YOU WHO BROUGHT MY MOTHER HERE, IT WILL BE YOU WHO TAKE HER BACK... IN A PALANQUIN THIS TIME.
HE'S GOT MY MAGIC WAND! I'M DOOMED!

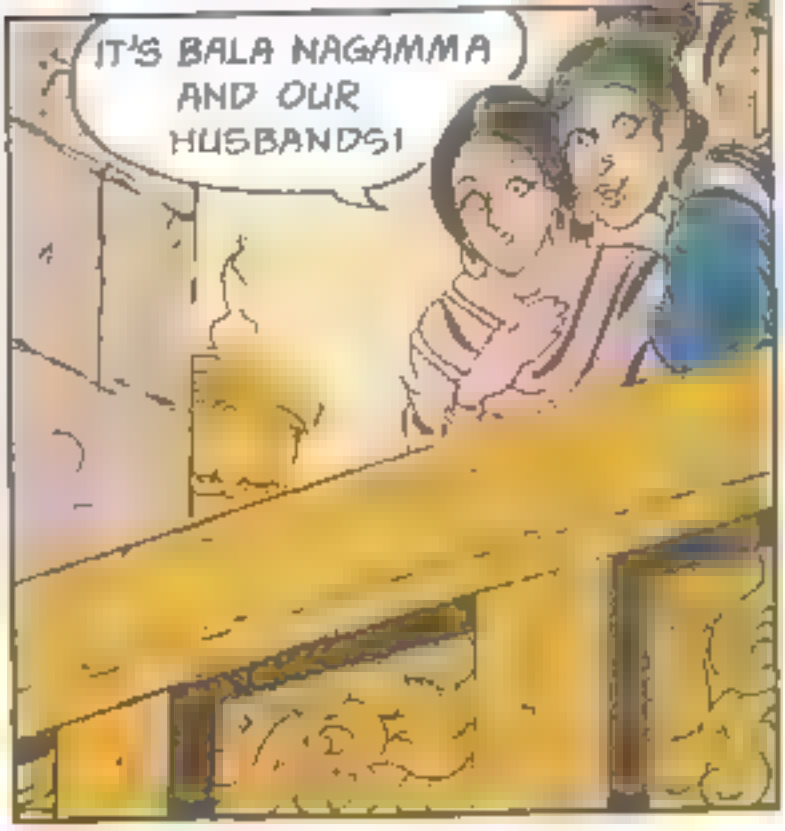
I'LL DO ANYTHING! PLEASE PUT ME ON MY FEET AGAIN!

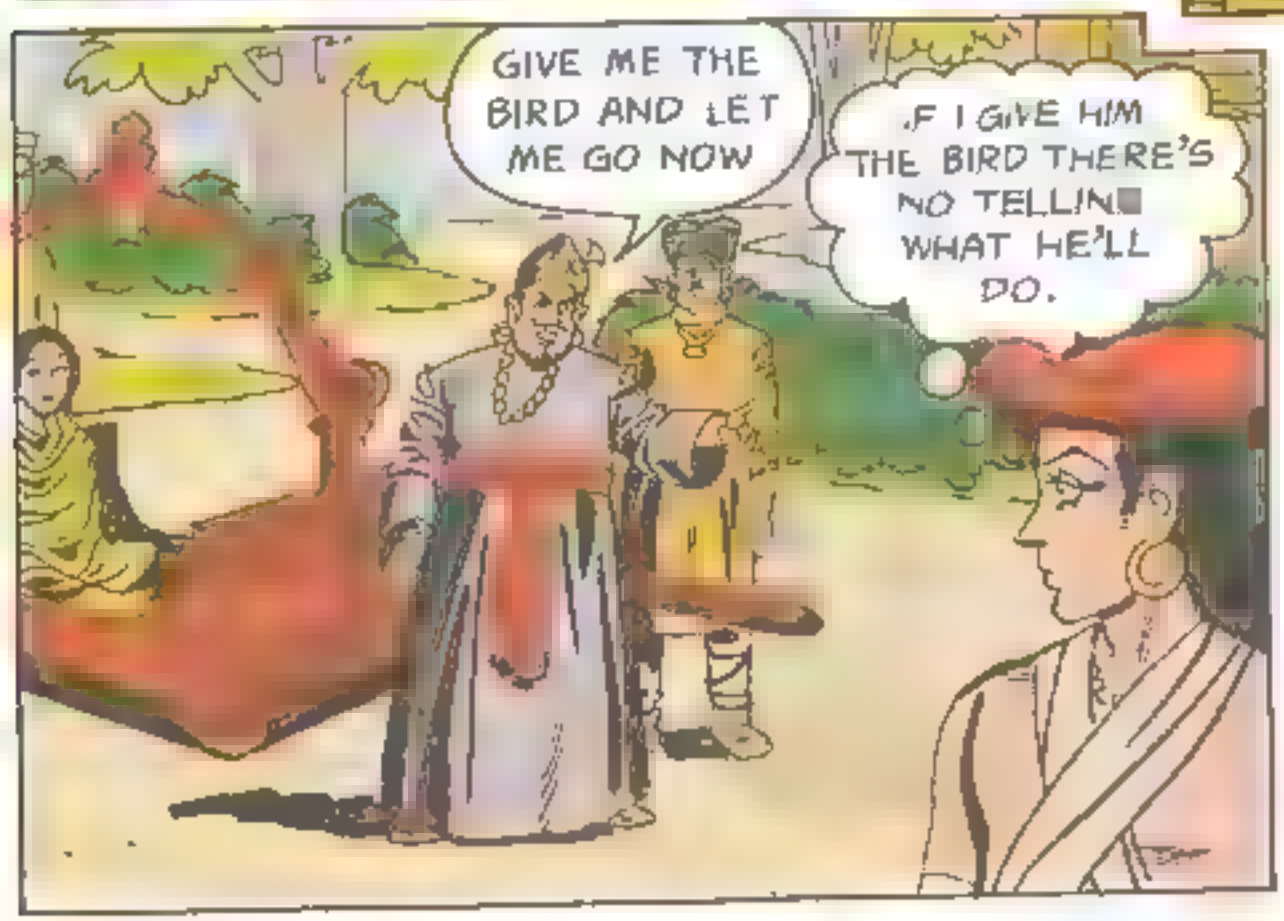

BALARAJU BADE GOODBYE TO THE OLD WOMAN WITH WHOM HE HAD STAYED.


...AND THEN, HE, HIS PARENTS AND HIS UNCLES SET OFF FOR HOME.

AS THE STRANGE PROCESSION WENDED ITS WAY HOME, BALARAJU RENEWED HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH ALL THE PEOPLE HE HAD MET EARLIER.

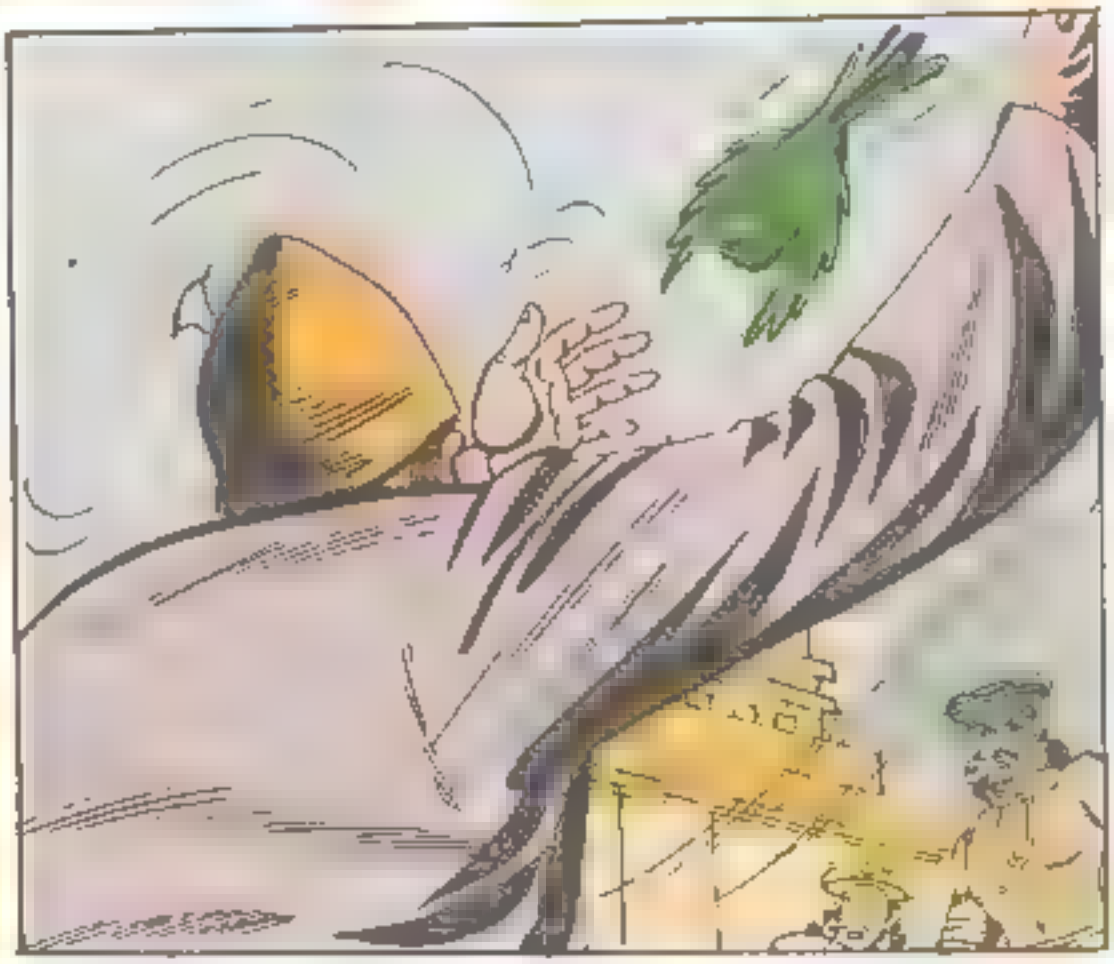

FINALLY —
HOME AT LAST! AFTER TWELVE LONG YEARS!

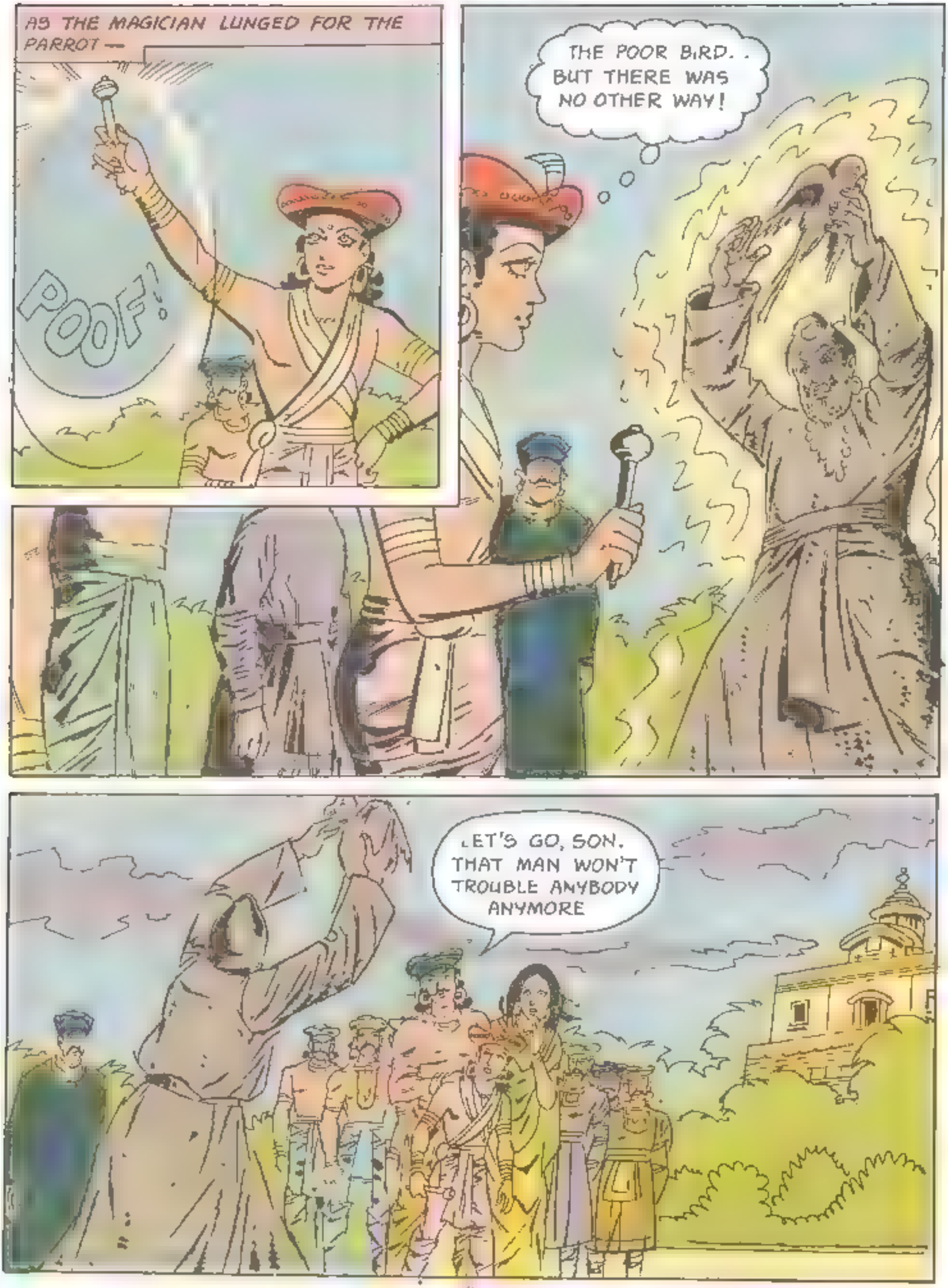

IT'S BALA NAGAMMA AND OUR HUSBANDS!


GIVE ME THE BIRD AND LET ME GO NOW
IF I GIVE HIM THE BIRD THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT

HERE!




AS THE MAGICIAN LUNGED FOR THE PARROT —
POOF!
THE POOR BIRD.. BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY!
LET'S GO, SON. THAT MAN WON'T TROUBLE ANYBODY ANYMORE

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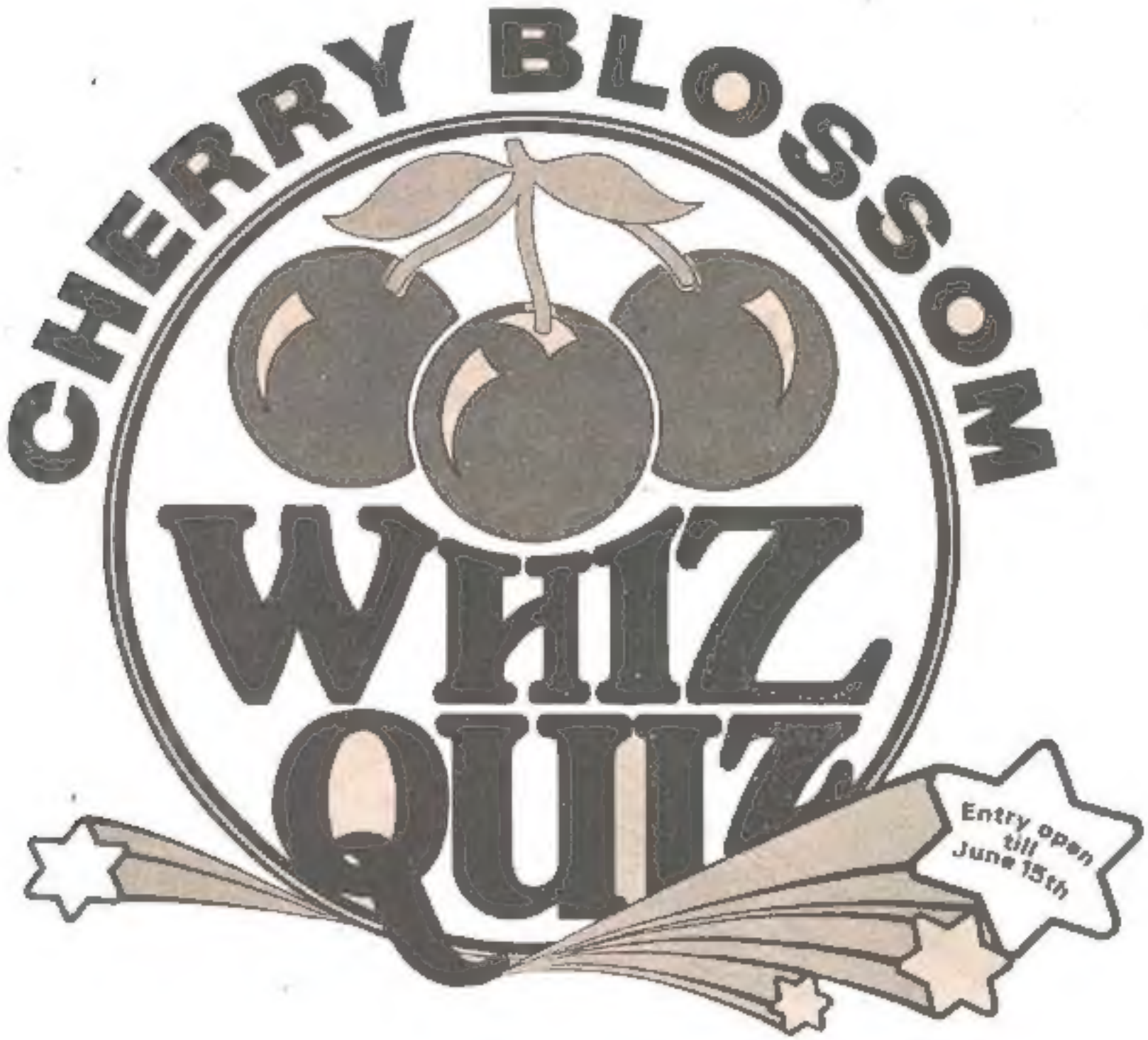
3 BROTHERS/A 10/1182

Calling all Whiz Kids!



It's easy! It's fun!!
There are over 100 fabulous prizes to be won!!!

All you have to do is tick off the right answers to the five questions given, tell us why you Cherry Blossom your shoes every day, and mail the entry form to us, duly completed and accompanied by the inner foil of one 40gm Cherry Blossom tin or the foils from two 15gm Cherry Blossom tins. And you could win one of many fabulous prizes!

Sound Prizes From H.M.V.

1 Prize

* HMV Stereocorder

2 Prize

* HMV Stereo 1515

3 Prize

* HMV Stereo 1010

100 Consolation Prizes

* HMV Orbit 404

First, second and third prizes may be exchanged for other HMV products of equivalent cost.

Every Entrant Wins!

A fabulous discount coupon on HMV players (Fiesta, Popstar and Swinger) for all entries received before 30th May, 1982.

RULES

1. The contest is open to school children only (up to Class XII). This will be verified for all award winners. Contestants should be residents of the Indian Union. 2. You may send in as many entries as you wish but each entry must be accompanied by 1 inner aluminium foil from a 40gm Cherry Blossom tin or 2 foils from 15gm tins of Cherry Blossom. 3. Entries should be addressed to the Advertiser, Cherry Blossom Whiz Quiz, P.O. Box No. 9192, Park Street, Calcutta 700 016. Registered mail will not be accepted. 4. Last date of receipt of entries is 15-6-1982. Illegible, incomplete and late entries will be disqualified. 5. The decision of the judges will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entertained. In the event of a tie, the value of the prizes will be equally divided among the winners. 6. Children of the employees of Reckitt & Colman of India Ltd. and Lintas India are not eligible to join the contest.

ENTRY FORM

1. Who sang the song "Mera Joota hai Japani"?
   ☐ Lata ☐ Mukesh ☐ Kishore
2. Behind a rider's shoe is a piece of metal which is used for prodding the horse. What is it called?
   ☐ Spear ☐ Spur ☐ Goad
3. A fairy tale character lost her glass slipper. Who was she?
   ☐ Snow White ☐ Cinderella ☐ Red Riding Hood
4. What is the first name of the Indian Film heroine whose last name is also a style of footwear?
   ☐ Rekha ☐ Padmini ☐ Poonam
5. Listed below are 9 qualities of Cherry Blossom. Select the 7 you feel are most important and rank them from 1 to 7 in what you feel is their order of importance by putting the rank in the box provided.
   ☐ Has an international formula
   ☐ Nourishes leather
   ☐ Gives a longer lasting shine
   ☐ Is economical
   ☐ Is easy to use
   ☐ Contains imported waxes
   ☐ Gives a mirror shine
   ☐ Makes shoes last longer
   ☐ Keeps leather soft

Please complete the following sentence in not more than 10 words (English or Hindi)

I Cherry Blossom my shoes every day because

मैं अपने जूते रोज चेरी ब्लॉसम से चमकाता हूँ क्योंकि

_____

_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Entries should reach us at the following address on or before 15.6.82. The Advertiser, Cherry Blossom Whiz Quiz, P.O. Box No. 9192, Park Street, Calcutta – 700 016

Did you Cherry Blossom your shoes today ?

LINTAS (C)/CB/25/2025

June 1, 1982
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Green
Silver
Orange
Silver
Red
Silver
Yellow

No foolin'!

Real Poppins now have a silver striped wrappin'!

Guess what, kids! The tricksters can't fool you now. All you do is watch for the silver stripes on the Parle POPPINS colourful foil pack.
Then, keep poppin' them in for fruity flavoured fun, okay?

PARLE
POPPINS

Now,
the imitators can't fool you.

everest/81/PP/101